

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

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2018 AT A GLANCE

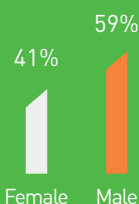
OUR PEOPLE



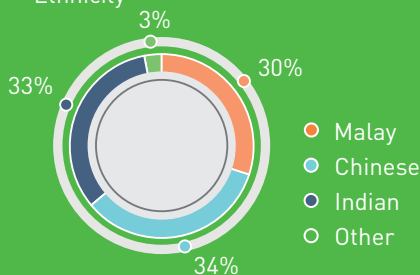
1,324
employees

DIVERSITY

Gender



Ethnicity



33%
Women in Senior
Management

CAPACITY BUILDING

72%
of Employees
Attended Training

15,183
Training Hours

OUR COMMUNITY

RM943,000

DONATED TO 31 MALAYSIAN
CHARITIES

150 HIGHER EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
VIA STAR EDUCATION FUND

OUR PRODUCTS/SERVICES

100% OF NEWSPRINT FOR THE STAR IS 'FTC' CERTIFIED OR
EQUIVALENT

NEWSPRINT FOR THE STAR IS
100% RECYCLED.

2,705,334 WH OF SOLAR
ENERGY GENERATED FROM
THE ROOFTOP SOLAR
GENERATION PROJECT

TOTAL REDUCTION OF CO₂
EMISSIONS = **1,972 TONNES**

24.25% REDUCTION IN
TOTAL WASTE DISPOSAL
(2018 VS 2017)

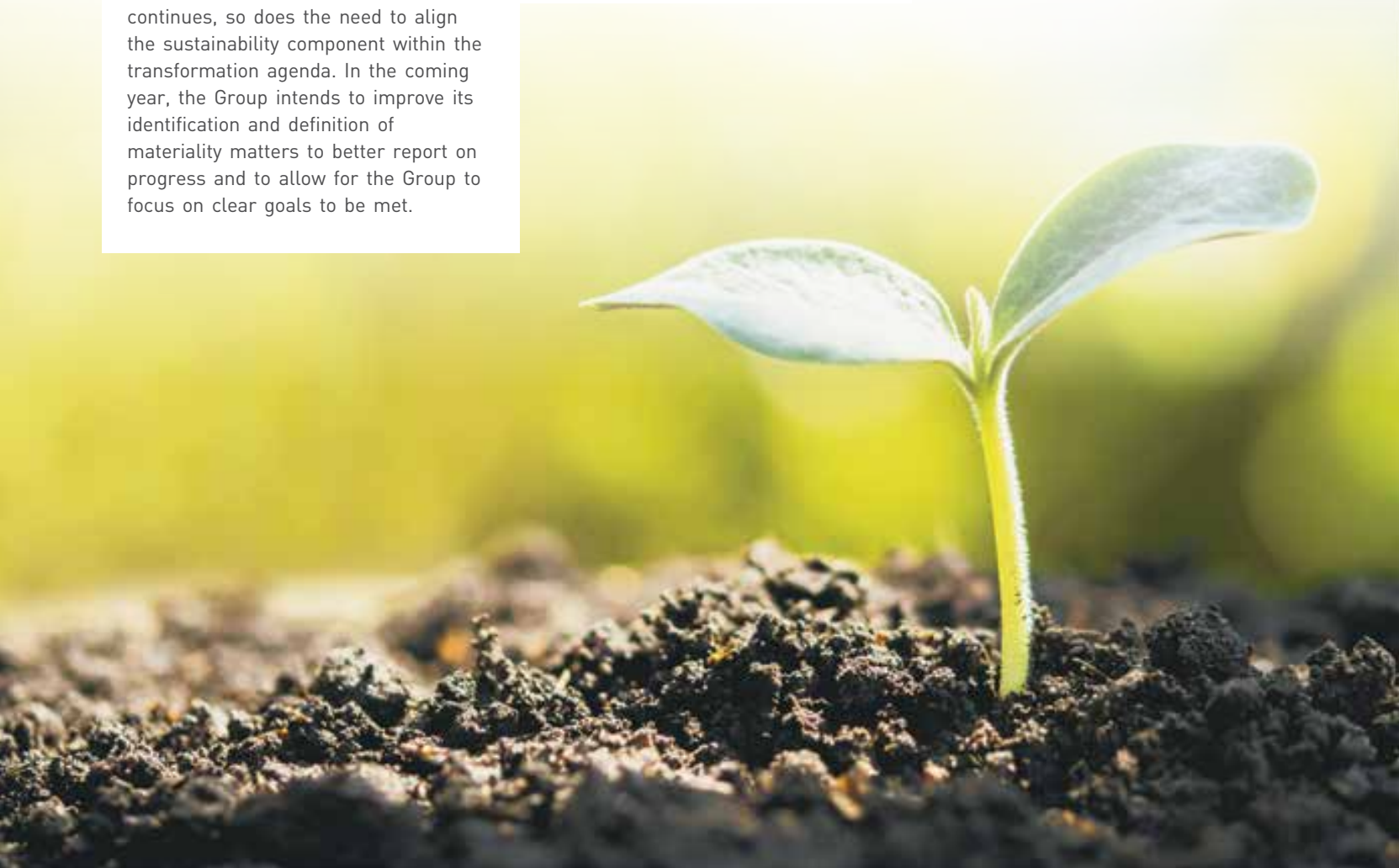
SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

This is the second year that Star Media Group is reporting on the Sustainability Statement in line with the Sustainability Reporting Guide from Bursa Malaysia. Progress has been made in the form of aligning our materiality matters with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals ("SDG") with particular emphasis on *SDG 5: Gender Equality*, *SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth* and *SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production*.

As indicated in the Management Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A"), 2018 was a year of transformation for the Group, where structural changes took place to change the way we do business. As the transformation continues, so does the need to align the sustainability component within the transformation agenda. In the coming year, the Group intends to improve its identification and definition of materiality matters to better report on progress and to allow for the Group to focus on clear goals to be met.

As a news and media organisation, creating shared value is very much embedded within the DNA of the organisation. A large portion of the organisation's resources are dedicated to creating and producing products and services that play the dual role of promoting a nation-building agenda or social cause while creating a revenue opportunity for the Group.

We also recognise the unique position and responsibility we have in shaping society at large through our content and platforms. Along that line we will commit to reflecting our progress and contributions following globally recognised standards in the coming years.



SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)



STAR MEDIA GROUP's SDG COMMITMENTS



SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)

GOVERNANCE & SCOPE

This second Sustainability Statement reflects our progress in moving towards improved reporting and disclosures. As mentioned, 2018 was a year of business transformation for the Group. We recognise that sustainability is an ongoing process and hope to report on significant improvements in this realm for the next Sustainability Statement.

Period covered

1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018

Scope

Star Media Group is wholly based in Malaysia, hence the scope of this report covers Peninsular Malaysia. It covers mainly Star Media Group Berhad and its print operations, which make up a substantial portion of the Group's business in terms of revenue and operations. Unless otherwise stated, it does not extensively cover the other operating companies within the digital, video-on-demand ("VOD"), radio, events and exhibitions segments as our focus is to primarily improve on the main operation first before advancing to other areas of the business.

We intend to expand our scope to include the full suite of operating companies within the Group for a more comprehensive view of our material economic, environment and social matters in the coming years.

This Sustainability Statement, guided by the Sustainability Reporting Guide and Toolkits issued by Bursa Malaysia and Sustainable Development Goals guidelines, is to be read in conjunction with the rest of Star Media Group's 2018 annual report, which highlights other financial and non-financial aspects of our business. To avoid repetition, certain aspects of this Statement may make reference to existing content within other sections of the Annual Report.

Currently the Enterprise Risk Management unit is tasked with overseeing the day-to-day sustainability matters, while the management team is responsible for ensuring business practices and policies are aligned to the overall economic, environment and social aims of the Group. Sustainability performance has also been placed under the purview of the Audit Committee.

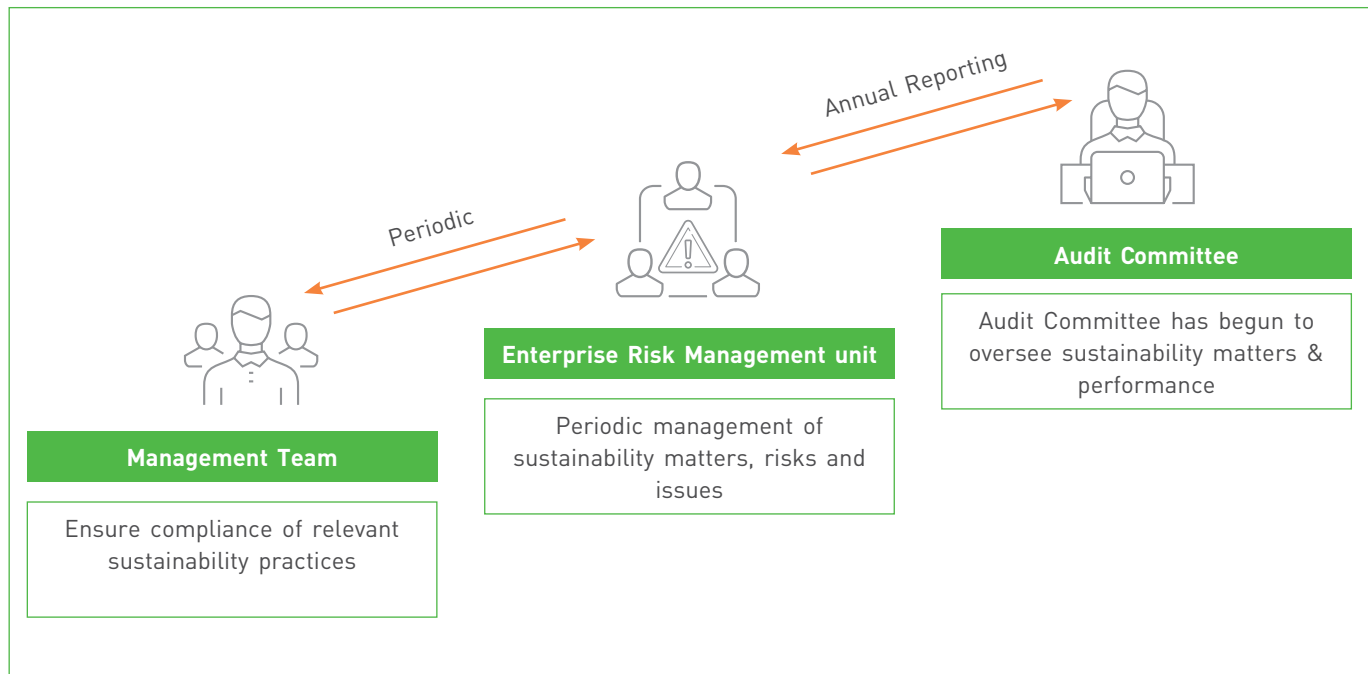
Moving forward the Group intends to formalise a reporting structure that allows for reporting of sustainability matters at board level with actionable outcomes. This is to better reflect the commitment placed by the Board and management team in delivering on its sustainability agenda.

Aligned with the roadmap to sustainability that the Group is currently developing, the intent is to also align the existing key risk indicators (KRI) with sustainability matters for a more integrated, holistic view of these areas.

Born as 'The People's Paper', the Group's DNA is very much imbued with a sense of being a responsible corporate citizen. As such, a distinctive part of the corporate culture is the ability to create and curate products and services that largely brings positive impact to Malaysians and contributes to nation-building.



SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)



DISCLOSURE AND EXTERNAL ASSURANCE

For this second Sustainability Statement, we have maintained an internal assurance methodology, reflecting the nascent stage of our reporting. We aim to substantially improve assurance measures in the coming report with a longer term aim to seek external assurance within the next few years.



SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

In 2018, we continued our engagement with stakeholder groups to better understand what areas interest and concern them in relation to the business and to align the materiality matters with these areas. Moving forward, we

hope to create a more structured approach to stakeholder engagement involving both internal and external stakeholders to facilitate better outcomes.

The Stakeholder Engagement Matrix below highlights the stakeholder engagement activities that we implemented in 2018:

			
	Shareholders/Analysts	Government/Regulators and Policy Makers	Customers (Business)
Engagement Platforms	✓ Regular shareholder communications/ announcements on Bursa Malaysia ✓ Updates on Star Media Group's corporate website ✓ Annual General Meetings/Extraordinary General Meetings ✓ Analyst briefings ✓ Periodic engagements with equity analysts and fund managers ✓ Annual Report ✓ On-site visits to HQ, radio stations and printing plant	✓ Meetings, case studies and sports activities ✓ On-site visits to HQ, radio stations and printing plant ✓ Attendance/participation in the Group's events	✓ Meetings, townhall sessions, roadshows, participation in exhibitions and networking lunches/dinners ✓ Product presentations ✓ On-demand requests ✓ On-site visit to HQ and printing plant
Key Interests	✓ Group's business direction ✓ Key corporate developments	✓ Regulation and compliance ✓ Strong relationships	✓ Business direction ✓ Procurement ✓ Knowledge sharing ✓ Safety procedures
How We Addressed	✓ Quarterly and annual statement briefings ✓ On demand response to inquiries and meeting requests	✓ Public-private partnerships	✓ Data-driven solutioning ✓ Refer Sustainability Matters 'Responsible procurement practices and occupational health and safety measures'

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)

							
Customers (Consumer)		Suppliers and Industry Peers/Partners		Employees		Local Communities	
☒ Qualitative and quantitative market research participation ☒ Feedback sessions during onground events and exhibitions ☒ Customer service channels (Email and call centre) ☒ Social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter)	Periodic Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	☒ Meetings, townhall sessions ☒ Participation in exhibitions ☒ Networking gatherings ☒ Product presentations	At least once a year Ad-hoc At least once a year At least twice a year	☒ Regular communications via email blasts and quarterly publications ☒ Townhall and dialogue sessions ☒ Social activities via the recreational club ☒ Union meetings	Ongoing At least twice a year At least once a year At least once a year	☒ Site visits to NGOs ☒ Community-focused events organised by the Group ☒ Sponsorships/donations ☒ On-site visit to HQ and printing plant	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing
☒ The Star cover price cost vs no. of pages (content) ☒ Content direction/balanced reporting		☒ Business direction ☒ Procurement ☒ Knowledge sharing ☒ Safety procedures		☒ Human capital development ☒ Safety ☒ Governance ☒ Corporate developments		☒ Education ☒ Social assistance ☒ Funding ☒ Publicity	
☒ Stringent fact-checking processes ☒ Refreshed editorial system ☒ Responsive editorial direction ☒ Refer Sustainability Matter 'Content creation, sourcing and management'		☒ On-site visit to HQ and printing plant ☒ Refer Sustainability Matters 'Responsible procurement practices and Occupational health and safety measures'		☒ Diverse workforce ☒ Training and development programmes ☒ Career planning and development ☒ Code of Ethics ☒ Refer Sustainability Matters 'Diversity, Labour practice and decent work and occupational health and safety measures'		☒ Education workshops and activities ☒ Funding via Star Foundation ☒ Medical Fund Programme ☒ Wheelchair programme ☒ Awareness building through editorial campaigns ☒ Refer Sustainability Matters 'Community investment and Quality education for a better society'	

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)

MATERIALITY

To determine materiality, Star Media Group worked closely with its department heads as well as external stakeholder groups. Feedback obtained via these sessions were mapped against the Group's business priorities and direction as well as risk considerations.

Following this, a risk assessment exercise was carried out to gauge impact of the sustainability matters to the Group.



SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)

OUR SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENTS

1.

CONTENT CREATION, SOURCING AND MANAGEMENT

Upholding our responsibility as the fourth estate



As a media company, content creation forms the foundation in which the Group sits on. As custodian of the preferred source of English news for Malaysians, we have the responsibility to ensure the content we produce and publish is accurate, credible and truthful. Trust is an important measure of our success as a media organisation and we are happy to inform that we are among the most trusted news sources for Malaysians according to Reuters Institute.*

The content teams are guided by strict and clear guidelines and standard operating procedures that ensure we are able to consistently deliver accurate and credible news and content.

There is also a recurring feedback loop from readers, viewers and followers that allows for the content team to adapt, adjust and improve on content direction in order to better meet the expectations of its audience. This occurs through social media engagements, letters to the editor, emails, content team's participation in panel discussions, forums, conferences, market research and direct feedback through roadshows.

For dimsum (our video-on-demand (VOD) offering), there is a Content Management Committee ("CMC") to oversee the purchase of content. The CMC consists of dimsum's content team, Chief Marketing Officer, Star Media Group's Group Chief Operating Officer and Group Managing Director/CEO. Content are sourced by identifying global and regional trends, which are then adopted locally to meet the suitability and preference of the local market. Fair and transparent processes are part of the content sourcing practice.

2.

RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT PRACTICES

Gearing for sustainability throughout the supply chain



A significant portion of Star Media Group's procurement activities involve local suppliers. From the purchase of raw materials, to production of marketing collateral and enlisting consultancy services, we continue to prioritise local suppliers across the Group. Where instances of procuring beyond local borders occurred, it has been on the basis of availability and capability.

The Group is also guided by our Procurement Policy that sets the parameters for our practices.

The supplier-buyer relationship is regularly reviewed and improved upon to comply with international standards. Our newsprint supplies are sourced from sustainably-managed forests and from environmentally responsible mills. The mills are Forest Stewardship Council ("FSC") certified/ accredited or equivalent, and produce their newsprint from well-managed forests or sustainable sources.

* Source: www.digitalnewsreport.org [2018]

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)

The FTC is an international body, which accredits certification to organisations to guarantee the authenticity of their claims. The goal of FTC is to promote environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.

Star Media Group's Role in the Industry

Member of Malaysian Newspaper Publishers Association ("MNPA") and Malaysian Press Institute ("MPI")

Member of Asia News Network ("ANN") and World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers ("WAN-IFRA")

Member of the Malaysian Retail Chain Association & council member of Communications and Multimedia Content Forum of Malaysia ("CMCF")

Star Media Group has in place guidelines and policies to guide us in our day-to-day operations, ensuring we always hold ourselves to a high standard:

Procurement Policy

IT Usage and Security Policy

Whistleblowing Policy

Anti-money Laundering & Counter Terrorism Financing

Code of Conduct and Ethics

Guidelines to a Donation

Related Party Transaction Policies and Procedures

Human Resource Policy

3.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT (RENEWABLE ENERGY)

Optimising consumption and minimising environmental footprint



Star Media Group's rooftop solar generation project was launched in 2014 with its 500 kWp rooftop solar plant. Since then, it has proven to not only reduce CO₂ emissions from the TND grid system, but created an alternative revenue stream for the Group.

**2,705,334
KWH**

**OF SOLAR ENERGY
GENERATED FROM
ROOFTOP SOLAR
GENERATION PROJECT
SINCE 2014**

IN TURN GENERATING

RM3.14M

**GROSS REVENUE TO THE
GROUP**

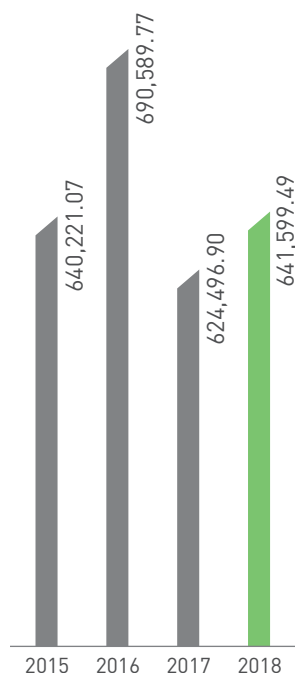
SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)

2018 GROSS REVENUE AT
RM641,599

OVERALL REDUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY

1,972 TONNES
OF CO₂ EMISSIONS FROM
TNB GRID SYSTEM

Solar Yield 2015 - 2018



Note:

CO₂ emissions are calculated using the Greentech Malaysia online carbon calculator (i.e. 1 MWh = 741 kg CO₂)

4.

MATERIALS

Making the most of our materials



THE STAR
NEWSPAPER IS
PRINTED ON



**100%
RECYCLED
NEWSPRINT**

WE COMPLY WITH
ISO 12647-3 & ISO 2846-2

**7% YIELD INCREASE PER
KG ON 42GSM VS 45GSM**

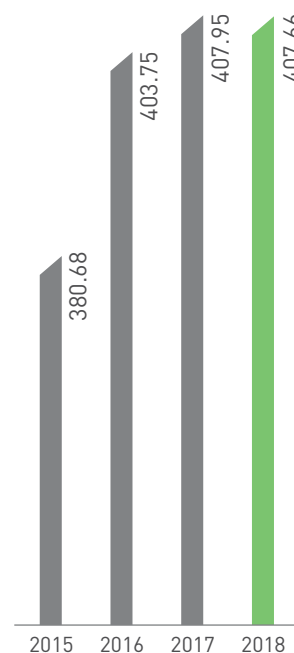
Paper & Ink

The Star newspaper, Malaysia's leading English daily, is printed each day on 100% recycled newsprint, meeting the ISO 12647-3 requirement for best print results. Compliance with this standard also subjects us to the pre-defined process control procedures for production of halftone colour separation, proofing and printing of newspaper.

Our move to 42gsm since 2016 has also significantly increased the yield per kg compared to previous runs on 45gsm, thereby increasing efficiency and productivity of the printing process. We continue to work closely with newsprint manufacturers to procure the most efficient products that minimise press run wastage.

In addition, we work with our ink suppliers to ensure compliance to the ISO 2846-2 standard.

Newsprint Yield



SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)



Effective Printing Plant Practices

As part of sustainable waste management practices, our printing plants place an emphasis on recycling and reusing waste in order to minimise landfill or incineration. Appointed licensed contractors dispose our general domestic waste, while other domestic waste such as used printing plates, press spoilage, newsprint brown wrapper/side covers, end cores, paper stripping and test run spoilage are sent to appointed contractors for recycling.

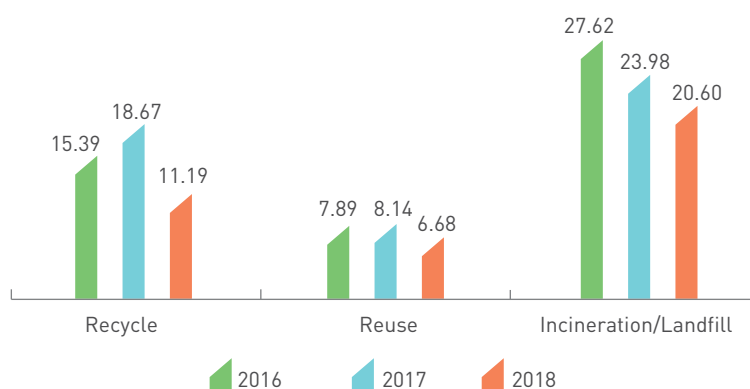
Scheduled waste is collected, stored and disposed by contractors licensed by the Department of Environment ("DOE") and done on a weekly basis, as per the requirements of the Environment Act.

Quarterly Environment Performance Monitoring Committee ("EPMC") meetings are conducted in compliance with the latest Guidelines for Self Regulation required by DOE.

Scheduled Waste Disposal By Year (2016 to 2018)

Waste Category	Waste Code	2016	2017	2018
E-Waste	SW 110	0.190	0.140	0.19
Sludge from WWTP	SW 204	3.880	5.390	3.67
Spent Lubricating Oil	SW 305	0.830	3.400	2.25
Spent Non-Halogenated Organic Solvents	SW 322	25.530	22.590	18.76
Container contaminated with schedule waste	SW 409	0.560	0.536	0.44
Used rags and filters	SW 410	14.560	15.270	8.94
Spent activated carbon	SW 411	1.900	1.250	1.65
Ink Waste	SW 417	3.450	2.210	2.57
Total (MT)		50.900	50.786	38.47

Scheduled Waste Disposal Composition



SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)

6.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Fighting corruption through organisational culture and accountability



The Group strictly prohibits any of its employees from bribery, corruption and any form of unethical behaviour. While we believe that a stringent tendering system for procurement and contract helps, we are confident that the ethical values inculcated in our employees reinforce our efforts to be transparent.

Having said this, we note there was one incident of an employee charged with bribery unrelated to his employment or work. The said employee is currently appealing his case and awaiting final decision from the Courts.

In view of this and in line with recent amendments to MACC Act (Section 17A) which places more accountability on organisations to prevent acts of work-related corruption, the Group is reviewing its existing policies and practices, with the aim of tightening controls and ensuring such acts are not committed in the line of duty. Efforts will also be made to ensure all employees are made aware and educated on these policies.

7.

DIVERSITY

Where diversity is the norm

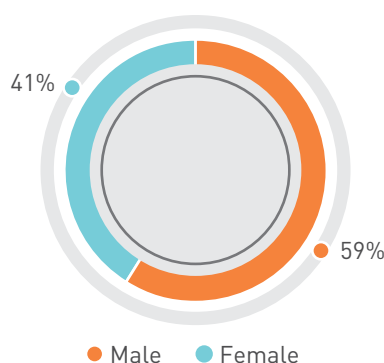


The Star's ability to commit to its tagline of 'the People's Paper' is also attributed to the diversity of our people across the group, mirroring the diversity of Malaysians as a whole. Diversity as defined by the Group cuts across race, gender, age, disability or status.

The Group's policies and initiatives such as recruitment, retention, training and development, as well as Group-sponsored corporate and social activities are all implemented in a manner that celebrates diversity.

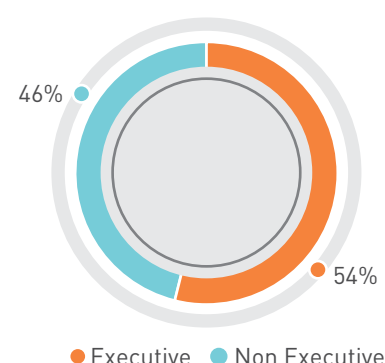
33%
WOMEN IN SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Employee Gender Composition

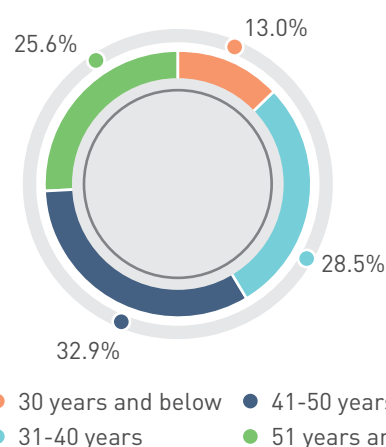


2 **EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITY**

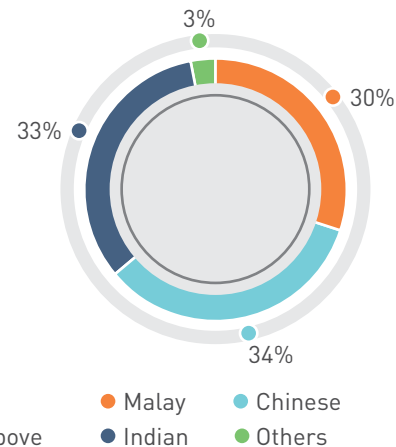
Employee Category Composition



Workforce Age Composition



Employee Ethnicity Composition



SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)

8.

LABOUR PRACTICE AND DECENT WORK

Building on a culture of mutual respect, integrity and commitment to excellence



The success of the Group to date is attributed to the commitment and dedication of our people - our *STARS*. Our employment practices are underpinned by the principles of fair treatment and a balance between performance, pay and participation.

Engagement

We continue to prioritise employee engagement activities to communicate with and unify our employees. Engaged employees are more satisfied with their work, tend to stay longer, and are more productive and committed. Employees are encouraged to pursue their ideas with a passion and collaborate with others to make their ideas a reality through transfers and intra-company secondments. The Group also has in place mechanisms to manage and resolve employee grievances to ensure these are addressed at the lowest levels possible and escalated accordingly if necessary.

Workforce

1,324 STARS
ACROSS 7 OPERATING COMPANIES.



Entity	Headcount
Star Media Group Berhad	940
Star Media Radio Group Sdn. Bhd.	118
SMG Business Services Sdn. Bhd.	145
SMG Entertainment Sdn. Bhd.	64
I.Star Ideas Factory Sdn. Bhd.	14
I.Star Events Sdn. Bhd.	5
Star Property Sdn. Bhd.	38

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)

Practices & Benefits

We continue to implement several initiatives to ensure our people achieve their full potential and are able to give their best. This includes competitive pay and benefits, retirement benefit schemes and long service awards. Having a good staff retention scheme, coupled with the right hiring, is essential to build a workforce that is balanced in terms of experience and energy.

In 2018, we continued to uphold our tradition of recognising employees who have contributed to the Group's success through the years. In conjunction with the Company's 47th anniversary, a total of 63 employees were recognised for their worthy contributions and given long-service awards.



Recipients of the long-service award together with Star Media Group's senior management team and Board.

Service Tiers	Recipients
15 years continuous service	41 employees
25 years continuous service	22 employees

Talent Development and Succession Planning

An annual appraisal system ensures that promotions, developments and rewards are carried out based on meritocracy and fairness. This ensures the Star Media Group family remains a well-balanced, safe and harmonious one.

One of the Group's primary human capital initiatives is our focus on attracting and retaining talent and then helping them to develop their skills to drive the Group's success. To this end, we are committed to bringing on board talent with the appropriate competencies as well as the relevant experience and qualifications. We provide continuous support by way of employee training and development and encourage them to take ownership of their personal growth. Other than serving the immediate needs of the Group, these efforts are helping us to establish a strong pool of talent and a pipeline of successors for the Group.

Star Media Group has developed and implemented a competency framework across the Group to identify and outline specifically the required standards of knowledge,

72%
OF EMPLOYEES ATTENDED TRAINING

skills, and behaviours required for successful job performance. The competency assessment serves to evaluate the competency levels of all employees as well as identify their competencies and skills gaps.

Our efforts begin right at the onset of the career path process when students come on board for their internships. Our well-defined internship programme is very popular among interns and has been certified as a Structured Internship Programme ("SIP") by Talent Corp.

Programmes	Employees Trained	
	2017	2018
Internal Programmes	844	722
External Programmes	271	241

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)

9.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

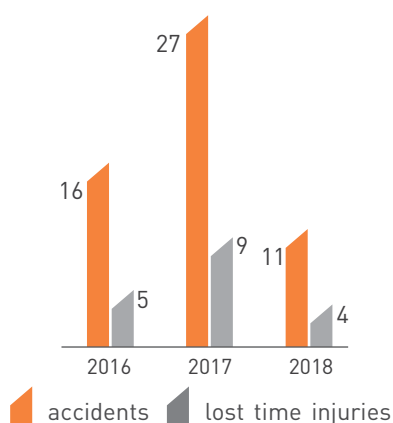
Towards a safe, accident-free environment



For our people to perform and deliver their best, a safe, hazard-free environment is a must. In 2018, we recorded an improvement in work-related accidents which were attributed to the following measures taken:

- A motorcycle safety campaign was held at Star Media Hub
- Diligent safety inspections by the Location Safety and Health committee prior to each safety meeting.
- Safety toolbox briefings to Printers were conducted to not only report slippery floors on site but to take the initiative to clean it up themselves.

WORK ACCIDENTS AND LOST TIME INJURIES



Safety & Health Activities

In May 2018, Star Media Group participated in the national “World OSH Day” 2018 followed by “Workplace Accident Free Week” in July 2018 which was organised by the Selangor state Safety and Health Department.

Campaigns and Activities carried out by Occupational Safety and Health (“OSH”) Committees in 2018

Basic Fire Fighting

Safety Campaigns

First Aid Competency course

Quarterly safety inspections and committee meetings

Safe Chemical Handling

Annual fire drills in Star Media Hub and Menara Star

Chemical Spill

Fire fighting systems (Security personnel)

Emergency Response



A demonstration on the proper usage of a fire extinguisher during Star Media Group’s annual fire drill exercise.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)

Safety Practices

At Star Media Group we have consistently complied with all safety, health and environment requirements as required by law, namely the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 and Environmental Quality Act 1974 and its regulations.

Each work location has its own OSH Committees, while our printing facilities have an additional committee called EPMC Committee.

All high risk activities are governed by safe operational procedures derived from Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Risk Control ("HIRARC") exercises. Contractors are required to submit their safe work methods and attend safety briefings conducted by the Safety representative before the commencement of any work. In addition to that, all workplace accidents, incidents and near-misses are reported and investigated to prevent recurrence.

MINIMUM

12-PERSON
OSH COMMITTEE FOR
EACH WORK LOCATION



40% OF OSH
COMMITTEE COMPRISES
MANAGEMENT

10.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Practicing what we preach



While our primary role as a news and media company is to inform, entertain and educate, the United Nation's goal of *Leave No One Behind* is one that closely resonates with us as an organisation. As a citizen watchdog, we are also very much aware and attuned to the challenges faced by vulnerable communities and recognise that we are in a good position to be able to extend assistance that may contribute to the improvement in quality of life for many Malaysians.

Star Foundation

As the Group's charitable arm, Star Foundation is tasked with raising, receiving and administering funds for various causes as per its charter.

Star Foundation donated RM943,000 in 2018 to various non-profit organisations nationwide including co-sponsoring three vans for three non-profit organisations which are from Pahang, Melaka and Selangor. Financial contributions were also provided to assist organisations in their operating expenses, upgrading of facilities and running of existing programmes.

RM943,000
DONATED TO VARIOUS SOCIAL CAUSES



SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)



Some of the recipients of Star Foundation's financial assistance.



17 EDUCATION/TRAINING FOR DISABLED



11 EDUCATION/TRAINING FOR OTHER VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES



3 HEALTHCARE CENTRES FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES



Presentation of wheelchairs to an NGO.

Wheelchair Programme

As part of the Group's dedication and commitment to extending assistance to marginalised communities, Star Foundation continued its ongoing efforts through the Wheelchair Programme by providing wheelchairs to those in need. In 2018, 21 wheelchairs were donated to individuals and NGOs desperately in need of mobility support, making it a total of 170 wheelchairs distributed since the programme's inception in 2017.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)

Little Yu Jian needs RM60k for surgery
Seizure-causing disease at risk of spreading to healthy left side of three-year-old's brain

By NIKH LOKH
lokhnikh@star.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: While his three-year-old wife Jiajie moves around actively, Ng Yu Jian could only lie on a baby cot.

The eldest of the two, Yu Jian was diagnosed with refractory epilepsy due to a condition called right hemisphere dysplasia, several months after birth.

Yu Jian's father Ng H.S., 34, said his condition prevented his ability to stand and walk.

"The condition has limits around. While conscious, he could sit upright for only a short while," he said when our reporter (a RPT Personal Care).

Ng, an insurance agent, said initially Yu Jian would have epileptic seizures about once every two months.

Some degree of improvement, he has epileptic seizures once every two weeks or a month.

"And whenever he has a seizure, he becomes unconscious for about half an hour."

"He will drive him to the Taping Hospital, which is about an hour away," he said.

Ng said over the years, he has taken Yu Jian to several doctors at private and public hospitals.

"He was referred by the Department of Paediatric Neurology in Hospital Kuala Lumpur and then they recommended a major surgical procedure that would prevent the seizure spreading from the damaged right half of the brain to the healthy left half."

"We were referred to the Neurosurgery Medical Centre, in view of their expertise and experience with this procedure," he said.

The neurosurgeon at the Neurosurgery Medical Centre explained that as Yu Jian has not shown any response to multiple medications, the surgical procedure, which offers a chance of 60-70% of complete seizure control, was a reasonable option in Yu Jian's situation.

The total cost of the surgery and hospitalisation would be about RM60,000.

Ng said he suffered from anxiety months after his son's condition was diagnosed.

"After his condition was diagnosed, I got depressed," he said.

"My wife and I are also fearful about having more children as it will be a heavy financial burden," he said. They have another six-year-old son.

The Star Foundation Medical Fund Programme hopes to raise about RM60,000 for the surgery and travelling expenses.

Some donations will be used for the non-durable patient.

Donations can be made via cheque, credit or debit card and bank transfer.

Donors will receive a receipt and will be in the Medical Fund - Donations Book at thefoundationofstar.com group register - Foundation Medical Fund Programme.

For a tax exemption receipt to be issued, the completed form attached with the proof of transfer should be e-mailed to info@thefoundationofstar.com.

The Foundation has been raising and administering funds for various causes.

The Medical Fund Programme was set up in 2013 to help more underprivileged and families in dire need of financial aid and medical attention.

For details, call Star Foundation at 03-7967 1388 (ext 1040).

Watch the video thestartv.com



Medical Fund Programme

Introduced in 2015, the Medical Fund Programme is an initiative under Star Foundation established to support underprivileged individuals suffering from chronic illnesses by funding their medical treatment and care. Approved medical cases are highlighted in The Star, which enables the public to be actively involved and respond through donations. Star Foundation is entrusted to manage public donations on top of contributions from Star Media Group Berhad.

In 2018, Star Foundation highlighted the plight of Ng Yu Jian, a three-year old boy suffering from refractory epilepsy who was in need of a major surgical procedure that would prevent the seizures from spreading to the healthy left half of his brain. The Foundation set out to raise funds for RM60,000 to support his surgery cost and travelling expenses. With overwhelming help from the kind and generous public, the Fund collected RM117,970 for Yu Jian's case. Surplus funds have been placed under the generic Medical Fund Programme which will be used for the next qualified patient.

This collective effort between the public and corporate have brought about marked improvements in recipients' health and wellbeing, which truly changes their lives for the better.

11.

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR A BETTER SOCIETY

Education, the foundation to a developed society



Education has been a mainstay on the Group's agenda from both a business and social perspective for decades. From the initial days of The Star newspaper, there was a realisation that literacy among Malaysians and continued interest in journalism as a career path were both critical to ensuring the sustainability of the business. The former would ensure continued demand for English content while the latter would ensure continued supply of quality news and content.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)

At the same time, the Group has also been in a privileged position to offer access to quality education for the underprivileged through specific programmes organised. As such, the Group divides this matter into three broad themes, with subsequent programmes and initiatives that deliver on the commitments:

Access to quality education for all

- ☑ Star Education Fund
- ☑ Star Education Fair
- ☑ KUNTUM magazine & workshops

Advocating for English literacy

- ☑ Newspaper-In-Education ("NIE") Programme
- ☑ English for Better Opportunities ("EBO") Campaign

Journalism as a sustainable career path

- ☑ BRATS Journalism Campus
- ☑ Editorial internships

Star Education Fund

Through Star Education Fund, the Group has helped some 4,000 deserving underprivileged students from across Malaysia go through tertiary education and open their pathways for a bright future.

In 2018, the Fund celebrated its 25th anniversary by organising an alumni dinner and continuing the work of awarding scholarships to 150 students amounting to RM9.4 million scholarship value.

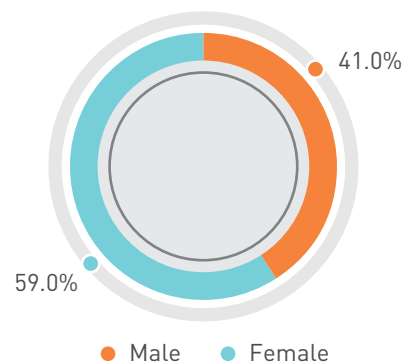
150
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



RM9.4
MILLION
SCHOLARSHIP VALUE

The Star Education Fund is managed by a dedicated unit that helps ensure a wide variety of disciplines offered by credible institutions are available under the programme. This ranges from Diploma certification to professional certificates covering both arts and sciences and across different disciplines. The unit also reviews each application according to a predefined set of guidelines that help ensure fair and equitable distribution of the scholarships. For the full list of partner institutions and the subsequent scholarships available, refer to sites.thestar.com.my/edufund.

Gender breakdown of 2018 recipients



A group shot of Star Media Group, partners, alumni and 2018 scholarship recipients.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT (CONT'D)

Newspaper-In-Education programme ("NIE")



Winners of the StarFlicks movie contest, organised as part of The Star's NiE programme.

For more than two decades, The Star's Newspaper-In-Education ("NIE") have helped Malaysian students strengthen their English proficiency through interactive projects that use the newspaper as a delivery tool.

Endorsed by the Malaysian Education Ministry, 33 issues are published each year and distributed to subscribing schools nationwide. Written by experienced English language teachers and specialists, each issue is produced according to the national syllabus and is presented in a fun, easy to digest manner.

The programme is managed by a dedicated NiE team that oversees the planning, production and execution of the programme according to the strict guidelines set by the Education Ministry.

In 2018, workshops were held in 98 schools across Malaysia to teach students and teachers on how to use the pullout and incorporate them into the classroom. In Kuala Terengganu alone, 240 students attended the workshop at Primula Hotel.

The Star's BRATs Programme - Journalism Campus



BRATs participants at Resorts World Kijal, Terengganu where they learned the basics of multimedia journalism from the R.AGE team, The Star's award-winning investigative documentary and social impact journalism team.

For the news and media industry to survive, there needs to be sustained interest in journalism as a profession. Since 1993, The Star has played its part through the organising of a highly successful teen journalism campus. Three times a year, a group of young, aspiring journalism students are brought to a city to cover current issues or topics of interest unique to the city. The programme boasts an enviable alumni that comprises successful professionals with a number who have become public figures.

In 2018, the camps took place in Genting, Terengganu and Langkawi with a total of 75 participants.

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