



## Diversity & Inclusion

# EASTSPRING INVESTMENTS INDONESIA WELCOMES THE YEAR OF THE RAT

In January 2020, Eastspring Investments Indonesia celebrated Chinese New Year 2020, the Year of the Rat. Eastspring Indonesia Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) team had prepared some activities to celebrate this event.

On Friday, 24 January 2020, before the Chinese New Year, all Eastspring Indonesia staff were encouraged to clean their desks. Not only for clean desk policy purposes, this workplace spring cleaning symbolizes a practice of driving away bad luck on the day before Chinese New Year.

On Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, every staff was asked to wear red tops as it is believed to bring good luck and good fortune to all. The celebration began by exchanging oranges with Pak Alan or usually called “Bai Nian” that symbolizes New Year greetings to the heads of household. Those who received the oranges gave two other oranges back in exchange along with their wishes for the upcoming year; and at the same time, they were given the red packets (angpao). By exchanging the oranges, it symbolizes exchanging good luck and riches to everyone.

Then, followed by Lion dance or Barongsai performance by D&I team. The lion is thought to be an auspicious animal that symbolizes courage, determination, and resourcefulness. Interestingly, the lion dance is believed to bring good fortune to those who watch it. The staff were so excited to watch the performance.

After the Lion dance performance, Eastspring staff collectively gathered around the table to start the Prosperity Toss or usually called “Yu Sheng” ceremony led by Pak Alan assisted by Pak Kong Qian who helped us to understand the symbolic meaning of each ingredient.

“Yu Sheng”, originating from the Cantonese phrase that means “tossing up good fortune” or “Lo Hei”, is a traditional Chinese New Year ceremony. During the prosperity toss, Eastspring staff used chopsticks to mix the ingredients together and then enthusiastically tossed them up while saying their wishes for the year ahead.

After all the activities, the celebration ended with a potluck lunch which consisted of Chinese dishes and snacks from all departments.

Happy Chinese New Year from Eastspring Indonesia.

May the year of the Rat brings joy, good health, and success to all!

