The MPH Group of Companies has both enjoyed successes as well as weathered storms for over a century. It has since grown and matured to become an important fixture in the business landscape of Malaysia & Singapore. Today, MPH is proud to be a wholly Malaysian-owned company and is set to achieve new heights in the years to come. The origins of MPH go back to 1815 when William Milne, a young missionary, set up a printing press in Malacca. In 1890, the press was relocated to Singapore and a new publishing house, the American Mission Press, was set up with the assistance of Captain W.G. Shellabear, to print Christian literature and, later to the reprinting of old Malay classics. Shellabear is recognized as the founder of the Malaya Publishing House whose farsightedness in bringing modern printing techniques contributed to the growth of the Southeast Asia publishing industry. He is known as the first to have translated English literary works into Malay and vice versa. The Sejarah Melayu and Hikayat Abdullah were some of the old Malay classics reprinted by Shellabear. In 1906, it was renamed the Methodist Publishing House from which the acronym MPH was derived, but from as early as 1900, under the direction of Rev. William T. Cherry, the company has began operation as a multi-faceted organisation involving printing, publishing, bookselling and distribution. In 1927, the Methodist Publishing House was officially incorporated as the Malaya Publishing House and became a public-listed company. In 1963, its name was changed to the Malaysia Publishing House and it began operating as a wholesale book department. The company also made history by having survived two world wars and witnessing the independence of both Malaysia and Singapore from the British in 1957 and 1965. After a succession of owners between 1966 and 2002, MPH Bookstores (Malaysia and Singapore), MPH Distributors (Malaysia and Singapore) and MPH Library Services (Singapore) were bought over by Malaysian company, Jalinan Inspirasi Sdn Bhd. For the first time, MPH became a wholly Malaysian-owned company. More business activities were added to the group, including the re-establishment of its printing and publishing arms.