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MIFA IN ACTION

MALAYSIA INDUSTRY FORWARD ASSOCIATION



Why Penang Is Becoming Malaysia's Next AI & Semiconductor Hub

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

YB Datuk Khairul Firdaus bin Akbar Khan
Deputy Minister of Human Resources (KESUMA)

Stop Competing with Startups: Governments Should Enable Innovation, Not Replace It

Technology Is Not Enough:

Why Malaysia's Future Depends on Talent, Partnerships and Execution

Exclusive Insights by

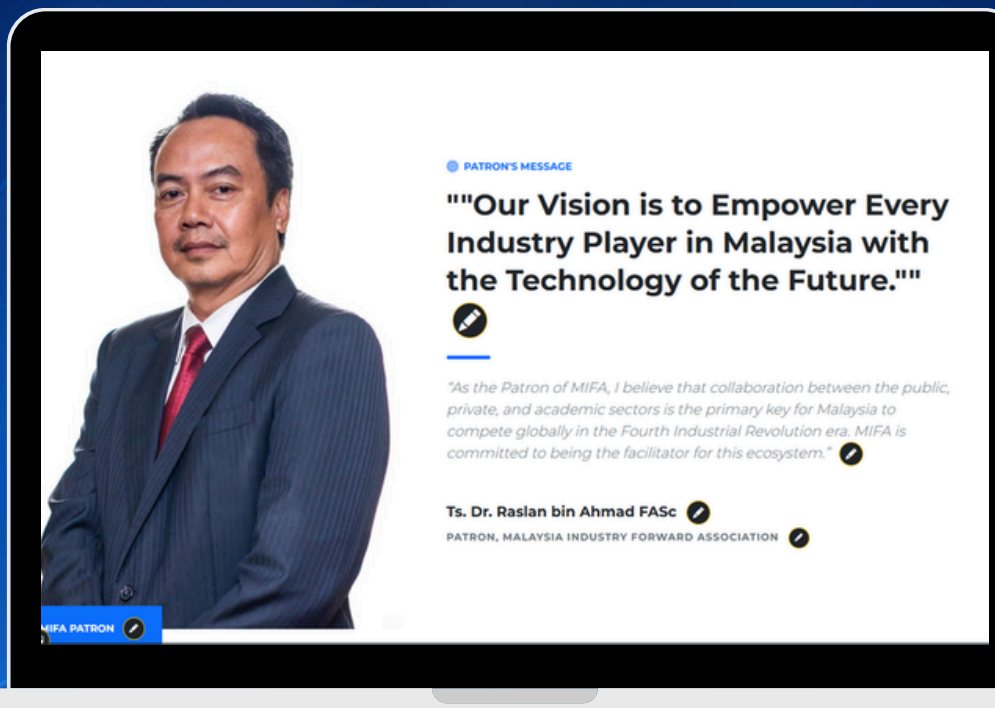
Ts. Dr. Raslan Ahmad, PhD, FASc
Patron, Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA)| Chairman, Malaysia Smart Cities Alliance Association (MSCA)

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INTRODUCTION

OBJECTIVE

To be the leading community platform that provides outstanding members value relates to Malaysia Industry4WRD Policy. It will connect related stakeholders, entrepreneurs, researchers, and policymakers with a strong voice of influence on the innovation, development, and market deployment of I4.0 & IR4.0 technologies & applications while stimulating and spearheading a favorable business environment.

MISSION

- Promote adoption, usage, and governance of IR4.0 implementation.
- Deliver outstanding member's value to all key stakeholders among business communities & policy makers (govt).
- Advocate and shaping guidelines for the IR4.0 best practices.
- Generate new business opportunities, increasing collaborations among members and building professional standing.
- Build a sense of community-belonging among its members.
- Develop a comprehensive digital library or knowledge bank including successful implementation of testimony and case studies into use case scenarios.



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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS





Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Dear Readers,

Wishing all MIFA members, partners, fellow technologists, innovators, business owners, and government representatives the very best! We warmly welcome our new members who have just joined us.

The role of science, technology, and innovation in our lives is undeniable, as they continue to drive transformative changes in the world around us. To move forward, we must reimagine our approaches and build resilience into our economies. Science, technology, and innovation are central to this endeavor, and collaboration will be key as we navigate this rapidly evolving landscape.

Throughout our journey with Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we've learned that only by working together in a multi-stakeholder and multilateral manner can we achieve rapid progress. Scaling up scientific advancements and technological solutions to deliver them where they are most needed is critical. While this new era will bring significant challenges, policymakers, entrepreneurs, businesses, financiers, diplomats, and civil society must strengthen partnerships to address these issues effectively.

I hope to see new visions, renewed momentum, and innovative partnerships that harness our collective expertise and drive toward achieving the SDGs through science, technology, and innovation.

Wishing everyone a successful and fulfilling year ahead.

Ir. Ts. Hj. Muhammad Didi Hendra Shah Bin Norharashid, CMILT

MIFA President

PATRON'S PERSPECTIVE

TECHNOLOGY IS NOT ENOUGH: WHY MALAYSIA'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON TALENT, PARTNERSHIPS AND EXECUTION



Ts. Dr. Raslan Ahmad, Patron of the Malaysia Industry Forward Association, reflects on why Malaysia's next phase of technological and industrial transformation will depend less on access to technology and more on our ability to develop talent, connect ecosystems and execute at scale.

By Ts. Dr. Raslan Ahmad, PhD, FASc
Patron, Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA)| Chairman, Malaysia Smart Cities Alliance Association (MSCA)

Malaysia does not have a technology shortage.

Artificial intelligence is increasingly accessible. Automation technologies are becoming more mature. Robotics, sensors, cloud platforms, digital twins, advanced analytics and connected systems are already within reach of many businesses.

The more difficult question is whether organisations know what to do with them.

This distinction matters. For many years, technology adoption has often been treated as the objective of digital transformation. Companies purchase new systems, automate selected processes, install sensors or introduce new software platforms. Yet the presence of technology does not necessarily mean that transformation has taken place.

True transformation occurs only when technology changes the way an organisation performs. It should improve productivity. It should strengthen quality. It should reduce waste, improve decision-making or create new value. Ultimately, it should strengthen the competitiveness of the organisation.

This is why I believe one principle must guide Malaysia's next phase of industrial development.

The real gap is capability

When organisations struggle with digital transformation, the immediate assumption is often that they lack technology. In many cases, the deeper constraint is capability.

A company may own sophisticated machines but lack the people who understand how those machines should be integrated into the production process. It may collect large volumes of data but lack the competency to convert that data into decisions. It may deploy artificial intelligence without first identifying the business problem that AI is expected to solve. It may automate individual processes without considering how those processes connect to the wider organisation.

This is why the next generation of Malaysian talent cannot simply be trained as technology users. We need people who understand the relationship between technology and operations.

They need to ask the right questions. What is the actual problem? Where is productivity being lost? What process needs to be redesigned? Which technology is appropriate? Is the organisation ready for it? What skills are required? And after implementation, what evidence shows that the investment has actually created value?

> **"Technology can be acquired. What determines competitiveness is whether we have the people, partnerships and execution capability to turn that technology into economic value."**

PATRON'S PERSPECTIVE

This is fundamentally different from knowing how to operate a machine or use a particular software platform. It is the competency to lead transformation.

For Malaysia, this distinction will become increasingly important. Technologies will continue to change. Specific software platforms will change. Machines will evolve. Artificial intelligence will develop rapidly.

If our workforce is trained only around specific technologies, there is a risk that skills will become obsolete as those technologies evolve. But if we develop strong foundations in systems thinking, problem solving, technology integration, operational improvement and continuous learning, our people will be better prepared to adapt. That is where long-term competitiveness comes from.

No organisation transforms alone

The second lesson comes from my experience in building and working with technology ecosystems. No single organisation possesses all the capabilities required to deliver transformation.

This was one of the central ideas behind the development of the Malaysia Smart Cities Alliance Association, MSCA. The platform brings together stakeholders from government, corporations, entrepreneurship and academia around common challenges, coordination and partnership. Smart-city transformation requires multiple capabilities to work together. The same principle applies to industry.

A manufacturer may understand its production process but may not have deep expertise in artificial intelligence. A technology company may have an excellent solution but may not fully understand a factory's operational realities. Universities may possess research capability but require stronger pathways to industrial deployment. Government agencies may establish policy, standards and incentives, but they cannot implement industrial transformation on behalf of companies. Training institutions may develop skills, but they need accurate signals from industry about what competencies are actually required.

This means partnerships are not an optional component of transformation. They are part of the infrastructure of transformation.

Malaysia needs fewer isolated projects and more connected ecosystems. We need government to understand industry. We need industry to communicate its needs clearly. We need technology providers to understand operational realities. We need universities and TVET institutions to respond to future competency requirements. And we need associations such as MIFA to help connect these communities.

The execution gap

Malaysia does not lack ambition. We have national strategies, industrial policies, digitalisation programmes, technology providers, universities, technical institutions and skilled professionals. Yet there is often a gap between strategy and implementation. This is the execution gap.

A pilot project may perform well but never scale. A technology demonstration may attract attention but never become part of normal operations. A company may receive support to adopt a new system but struggle to maintain it after the initial implementation. A training programme may produce participants, but employers may still report difficulty finding the competencies they need.

Execution deserves far more attention. It requires governance, leadership, project management, technical capability and measurement. Most importantly, it requires ownership within the organisation.

Technology transformation cannot remain the responsibility of a technology vendor. The organisation itself must develop the internal capability to lead and sustain change. Otherwise, transformation becomes dependent on external parties.

We also need to move beyond measuring technology adoption by the number of systems purchased or projects launched. The more important measures are outcomes. Has output increased? Has downtime decreased? Has product quality improved? Has energy consumption been reduced? Has decision-making improved? Have workers moved into higher-value functions? Has the company become more competitive? If the answer is no, then technology adoption alone should not be presented as success.

Talent must come before scale

There is another important implication. Malaysia cannot scale advanced technology adoption faster than it can build the people capable of supporting it. This may become one of the binding constraints in the coming decade.
As more organisations adopt AI, robotics, automation and connected systems, demand will increase for people who can design, implement, integrate and maintain those technologies. But an even more important category will emerge. These are people who can translate between technology and business.
They understand the technical possibilities, but they also understand operations, productivity and organisational realities. They can speak to engineers. They can speak to management. They can work with vendors. They can interpret data. And they can lead implementation.
These individuals are essential because technology projects rarely fail purely because of the technology itself. Projects often fail because requirements are unclear, organisations are not ready, people resist change, systems are poorly integrated or outcomes are not measured.

PATRON'S PERSPECTIVE

Why NCS – Industry Forward matters

This is where I see significant value in the National Competency Standard, NCS – Industry Forward initiative being advanced through collaboration involving MIFA and the Department of Skills Development.

The opportunity is to ensure that Industry Forward does not become another technology-awareness programme. It should focus on competency. It should help develop individuals who can understand how technology transforms an organisation.

That means moving beyond questions such as, 'Do you understand AI?' or 'Can you operate this system?' The more valuable questions are these: Can you identify an operational problem? Can you determine whether technology is the appropriate solution? Can you assess organisational readiness? Can you help integrate the solution? Can you manage the impact on people and processes? Can you evaluate the result?

These are the capabilities that industry needs.
If NCS – Industry Forward can systematically develop and recognise these competencies, it has the potential to fill an important gap between technology knowledge and transformation capability.

That is particularly relevant for small and medium enterprises. SMEs often cannot maintain large internal transformation teams. They need people who can operate across multiple functions and make informed decisions about technology adoption. A competency framework that develops such capability can therefore have practical economic value.

Malaysia must build ecosystems, not islands

One of the risks in technology policy is fragmentation. We create separate initiatives for AI, robotics, smart cities, manufacturing and skills. Yet industries do not operate in these silos.
A Smart Manufacturing facility may simultaneously involve AI, cybersecurity, IoT, robotics, energy management, data analytics and workforce transformation. A smart city faces the same challenge. Technology converges. Therefore, ecosystems must also converge.
MIFA can perform an important connecting function within the industrial transformation ecosystem. Its value should not be measured only by the number of events conducted. Its value should be measured by the connections it creates.
Between companies and technology providers. Between industry and government. Between skills standards and employment demand. Between emerging technologies and real operational problems. And between Malaysian capability and international opportunities.
This is where industry associations can create leverage that individual organisations cannot achieve alone.

From smart cities to smart industries

A city cannot become smart simply by installing sensors. A factory cannot become smart simply by installing robots. Technology must be integrated into a system that produces better outcomes.
In a city, those outcomes may include better mobility, improved services, sustainability and quality of life. In an industrial organisation, they may include higher productivity, better quality, safer operations and stronger competitiveness.
The principle is the same. Technology is an enabler. It is not the outcome.

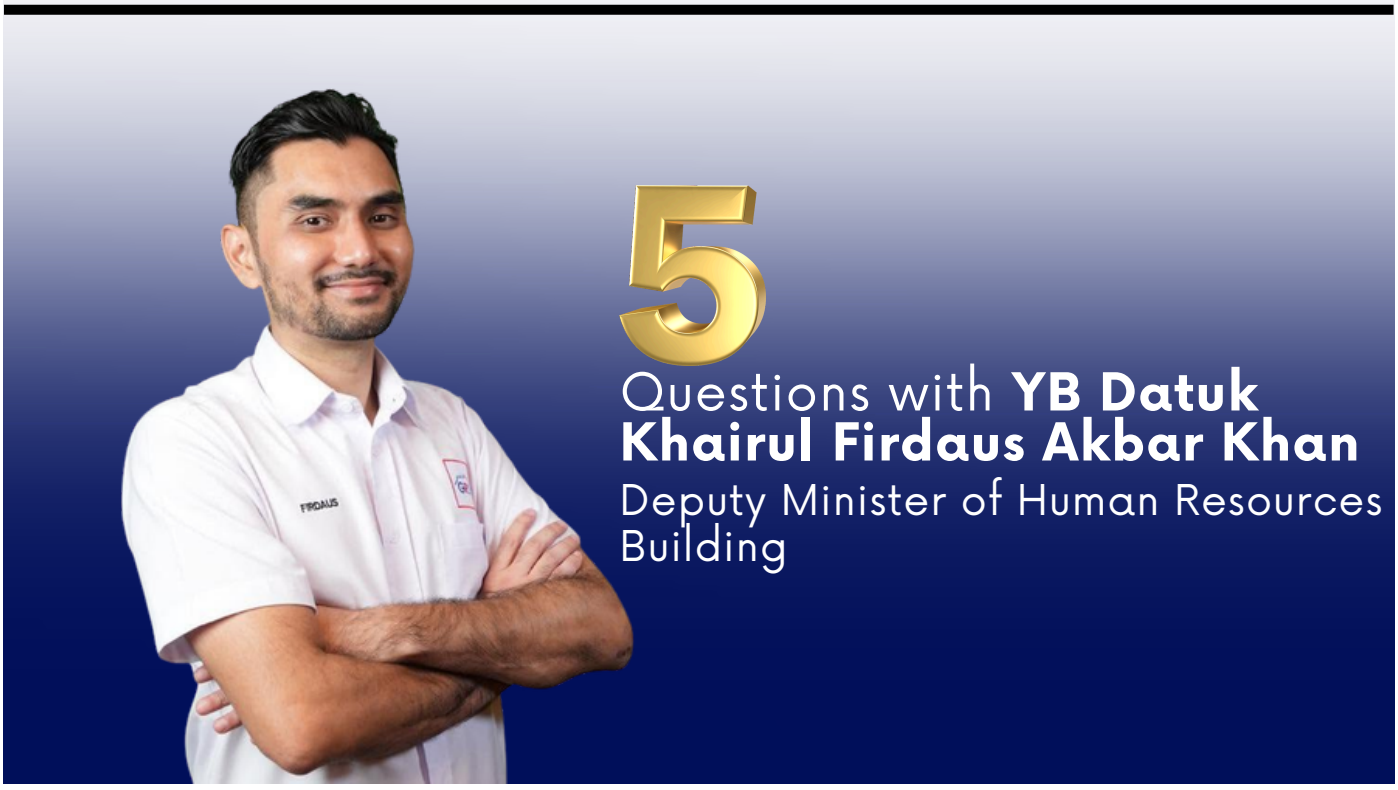
Malaysia's real competitive advantage

Malaysia must be realistic about global competition. We are not the only country investing in artificial intelligence. We are not the only country adopting robotics. We are not the only country building smart factories.
Technology itself will not provide a permanent competitive advantage because competitors can purchase similar technologies. The more defensible advantage is the ecosystem around that technology.
The quality of our talent. The speed at which companies can adopt technology. The strength of collaboration between government and industry. The ability of our institutions to respond to changing competency requirements. The capacity of Malaysian companies to execute. And the ability to move from pilot projects to large-scale deployment.

These capabilities are much harder to replicate.
This is why Malaysia's technology agenda must ultimately become an execution agenda. We should continue investing in emerging technologies. But we must invest just as seriously in the people who implement them. We should continue creating policies. But we must strengthen the institutions and partnerships that translate policy into action. We should continue encouraging digital adoption. But we should judge success by measurable improvements in productivity, competitiveness and economic value.
Malaysia's future will not be determined simply by how much technology we possess. It will be determined by how effectively we use it.
And that requires talent. It requires partnerships. Most importantly, it requires execution.

> **"The question is no longer whether Malaysia has access to technology. The question is whether we can translate technology into productivity, competitiveness and better opportunities for our people."**

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



Building Malaysia's Future Workforce for Smart Manufacturing

Malaysia's transition towards Smart Manufacturing requires more than investment in automation, artificial intelligence and digital technologies. The more difficult task is building a workforce capable of understanding, adopting and translating these technologies into measurable productivity gains.

In this exclusive interview with MIFA IN ACTION, YB Datuk Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan, Deputy Minister of Human Resources, shares his perspective on future skills, industry-driven training, competency certification and the role of employers in shaping Malaysia's next generation of industrial talent.

KESUMA has consistently emphasised that skills development must respond to actual industry demand. In Parliament, YB Khairul Firdaus highlighted approaches including demand-driven training, industry-responsive National Occupational Skills Standards, workplace-based training and industry-led Future Skills Talent Councils.

Question 1

As industries move rapidly towards automation, artificial intelligence and Smart Manufacturing, what are the most critical skills Malaysian workers need to remain relevant and competitive?

YB Datuk Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan:

The transformation taking place within industry today requires us to look beyond individual technical skills. A worker may know how to operate a machine, use software or work with a particular technology, but the future of work requires a broader combination of technical competence, problem-solving ability and adaptability.

For Smart Manufacturing, workers need a strong foundation in areas such as automation, data, digital systems, artificial intelligence, robotics and connected technologies. However, technical exposure alone is insufficient.

What industry increasingly needs are individuals who can understand how technology fits into an organisation's operations. They must be able to identify a problem, understand the production process, evaluate a suitable technological solution and determine whether that solution actually improves productivity, quality and efficiency.
This is particularly important because technology changes very quickly. We cannot train workers only for one machine or one software platform. We need to build competencies that allow them to adapt as technologies evolve.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

For KESUMA, this is why industry involvement is crucial. Training must be linked to actual occupational requirements and future employment demand. The ministry has therefore emphasised demand-driven training, stronger engagement with employers and the continued development of skills standards that reflect industry needs.
Our objective should be clear. Malaysian workers must become capable participants in technological transformation, rather than simply users of technologies introduced by others.



Question 2

How does KESUMA view the role of industry in determining what should be taught and certified within Malaysia's skills development ecosystem?

YB Datuk Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan:

Industry must play a central role.
One of the risks in any training system is developing programmes based on what training providers are able to deliver rather than what employers actually require. When this happens, we can produce certificates without necessarily producing the competencies required at the workplace.

KESUMA's approach is therefore increasingly focused on strengthening the connection between training and real labour-market demand.

Industry understands the technologies being adopted, the competencies that are difficult to find, the changes occurring within occupations and the capabilities employees will require over the next several years.
That information must be translated into training standards, programme design and assessment.
This is why collaboration between government, industry and training institutions is so important. The government provides the national framework and quality assurance. Training institutions provide structured learning and skills development. Industry provides the reality check.

In Parliament, I have previously explained that KESUMA is strengthening industry-driven development through approaches such as demand-driven training, workplace-based training and the MyMahir Future Skills Talent Councils, which involve industry players in shaping talent development according to sector requirements.
If these three components work independently, skills mismatch will persist. But when they work together, we can create a much stronger pipeline from training to competency and ultimately to employment and career progression.



Question 3

Malaysia already has many training programmes and professional certifications. How can competency-based certification help address the skills mismatch faced by industry?

YB Datuk Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan:

We need to distinguish between participation in training and demonstrated competency.
Completing a course is useful, but industry ultimately needs assurance that an individual can perform a particular function to an expected standard. That is where competency-based certification becomes important.
A strong competency framework establishes what a person must know, what they must be able to do and what level of performance is expected. It creates a common reference point between workers, employers, training providers and government.This becomes particularly important in emerging technology areas because job functions are evolving rapidly. Industry may be adopting automation, artificial intelligence, digital manufacturing and integrated systems faster than conventional occupational structures can respond.

Competency standards provide a mechanism for identifying and formalising these emerging capabilities.
Malaysia also recognises that competency can be developed through different pathways. It does not always come only from formal classroom education. Experienced workers can possess substantial expertise gained through the workplace. KESUMA, through JPK, has continued to strengthen recognition of prior experiential learning as a formal route for recognising competencies gained through experience. Ultimately, certification should answer a practical question for an employer: What can this person actually do? If our certification system answers that question clearly and credibly, it becomes much more valuable to both workers and industry.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



Question 4

Many companies invest in new technologies but still struggle to achieve improvements in productivity. What is missing?

YB Datuk Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan:

Technology itself does not automatically create productivity.
A company can purchase advanced machinery, automation systems or artificial intelligence solutions, but without people who understand how to integrate those technologies into existing operations, the investment may not produce the intended outcome. This is why workforce development must happen together with technological transformation. Before adopting technology, companies need people who can identify where inefficiencies exist, understand the production or business process and determine what problem they are attempting to solve.
They then need the capability to assess appropriate solutions, manage implementation and evaluate the results.
The real measure of transformation should therefore not be how much technology a company has purchased. It should be whether that technology improves productivity, quality, efficiency, safety or the competitiveness of the business.

There is also a broader labour-market dimension. Skills development should create economic value for both employers and workers. KESUMA has placed significant emphasis on strengthening the relationship between skills, productivity and wages. Training becomes much more meaningful when higher competency contributes to higher productivity, which in turn creates the economic basis for better career progression and remuneration.
This direction is also reflected in the implementation of progressive wage initiatives, where skills upgrading forms part of the broader effort to strengthen wage growth and worker productivity. So when we discuss Smart Manufacturing, we should not discuss machines separately from people. Human capability determines whether technology becomes an expense or an investment.



Question 5

What is your message to Malaysian companies, particularly SMEs, that have not yet started or are still struggling with their digital and Smart Manufacturing transformation?

YB Datuk Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan:

My message is that transformation does not necessarily need to begin with the most expensive technology.
It should begin with understanding the business. Companies should first identify where productivity is being lost, where quality problems occur, which processes are repetitive or inefficient and where better use of data could improve decision-making.

Once the problem is clearly defined, technology becomes a tool for solving that problem.
At the same time, employers need to invest in their people. An organisation cannot transform sustainably if only management understands the transformation while employees remain disconnected from it. Workers need opportunities to acquire new competencies and understand how their roles are changing.
This is where upskilling and reskilling become critical.

For SMEs in particular, collaboration is important. Companies do not have to develop every capability internally. They can work with industry associations, government agencies, training institutions and technology providers to identify suitable pathways for transformation. KESUMA will continue to encourage stronger industry participation in skills development because employers are ultimately the users of these competencies.
My hope is that Malaysian companies will see workforce development and technology adoption as part of the same strategy. When businesses invest in technology and simultaneously invest in people, we create a stronger foundation for productivity, higher-value employment and a more competitive Malaysian economy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PRESIDENT



MIFA extends its heartfelt congratulations to Ir. Ts. Hj. Muhammad Didi Hendra Shah Bin Norharashid, President of the Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA), on receiving the prestigious Tokoh Alumni Award from the Kulliyyah of Engineering, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), in conjunction with the *Multaqah of Engineering & Takrim 2026*.

This distinguished recognition reflects his remarkable professional journey, leadership and contributions to the engineering and industry community.

His achievement is a proud milestone for MIFA and serves as an inspiration to fellow professionals and future generations of industry leaders.

The MIFA community proudly celebrates this well-deserved recognition and wishes him continued success in his leadership and future endeavours.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPECIAL ADVISOR



MIFA extends its heartfelt congratulations to Dato' Ts. Dr. Amirudin Bin Abdul Wahab on his appointment as Special Advisor to D.Y.T.M. Raja Muda Selangor on matters related to Cybersecurity and Digital Technology.

Dato' Ts. Dr. Amirudin, who also serves as Special Advisor of MIFA and former CEO of CyberSecurity Malaysia, has long been recognised as one of the nation's leading figures in cybersecurity, digital transformation and strategic technology development.

This prestigious appointment is a reflection of his vast experience, leadership and continued contributions towards strengthening Malaysia's cybersecurity ecosystem and advancing the nation's digital agenda.

MIFA is proud to have Dato' Ts. Dr. Amirudin as part of the association's leadership and believes that his appointment will further contribute towards driving stronger collaboration, innovation and progress in the areas of cybersecurity, digital technology and Industry 4.0.

We wish him every success in carrying out this important role and are confident that his expertise will continue to benefit both the state of Selangor and Malaysia as a whole.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPECIAL ADVISOR





Heartiest congratulations to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aini Suzana Datuk Hj Ariffin, Special Advisor on Emerging Policy, Strategy, ESG & National AI at Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA), on your appointment as a Tier-1 Fellow and Member of the MIMOS Industry Advisory Group (IAG).

This prestigious appointment reflects your outstanding leadership, expertise, and dedication in advancing national policy, innovation, ESG, and Artificial Intelligence. Your appointment is also a proud recognition of the valuable role you continue to play within MIFA as our Special Advisor on Emerging Policy, Strategy, ESG & National AI.

We are confident that your knowledge and experience will continue to contribute significantly towards strengthening Malaysia's innovation ecosystem, supporting strategic collaboration between industry, academia, government, and society, and further advancing the nation's digital and AI agenda through MIMOS and MOSTI.

On behalf of MIFA, we wish you every success in this important role and look forward to your continued contributions in shaping a more innovative, resilient, and future-ready Malaysia.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPECIAL ADVISOR



The Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA) extends its warmest congratulations to Prof. Dr. Aini Suzana Ariffin, our esteemed Special Advisor for Emerging Policy, Strategy, ESG & National AI, on her appointment as President of the AI & Robotic Wisdom Council, ACXOA Ltd.

This distinguished appointment is a testament to her exceptional leadership, expertise, and continued commitment to advancing Artificial Intelligence, robotics, responsible digital transformation, and strategic innovation across the ASEAN region.

MIFA is proud to celebrate this remarkable milestone and wishes Prof. Dr. Aini Suzana Ariffin every success in her new leadership role. May her continued contributions inspire greater innovation, collaboration, and progress within the regional technology ecosystem.

Congratulations on this well-deserved achievement!

MIFA APPOINTS TS. DR. RASLAN BIN AHMAD AS NEW PATRON



Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA) is pleased to formally announce the appointment of Ts. Dr. Raslan Bin Ahmad as the new Patron of the Association.

This appointment marks an important milestone for MIFA as the Association continues to strengthen its governance, strategic direction and role within the industry ecosystem. With his extensive experience and distinguished leadership, Ts. Dr. Raslan is expected to bring valuable insight in advancing MIFA's programmes, collaborations and long-term initiatives.

MIFA is confident that under his patronage, the Association will further enhance its professionalism, organisational presence and alignment with Malaysia's national development agenda.

The Association warmly welcomes Ts. Dr. Raslan Bin Ahmad and looks forward to his leadership and guidance in supporting MIFA's continued growth and future success.

CELEBRATING DR. RASLAN AHMAD'S NEW APPOINTMENT



Congratulations to Dr. Raslan Ahmad on His Appointment as Advisor, Enterprise Innovation Platform (EIP), U Mobile

The Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA) extends its heartfelt congratulations to Ts. Dr. Raslan Ahmad, PhD, FASc, on his appointment as Advisor to the Enterprise Innovation Platform (EIP) at U Mobile. This prestigious appointment reflects his outstanding leadership, extensive industry experience, and significant contributions to advancing digital transformation, technology innovation, smart cities, and strategic collaboration across industry, government, and academia.

The Enterprise Innovation Platform (EIP) was established to accelerate the development of 5G-Advanced (5G-A) and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven solutions by fostering collaboration among enterprises, technology providers, academic institutions, and ecosystem partners. With Dr. Raslan's strategic vision and deep expertise, MIFA is confident that he will play a pivotal role in strengthening Malaysia's innovation ecosystem and driving the adoption of cutting-edge digital technologies across industries.

MIFA is proud to celebrate this remarkable achievement and is confident that Dr. Raslan's appointment will contribute significantly to the nation's digital and industrial transformation agenda. As a valued Patron of MIFA, we wish him continued success in this new role and look forward to his ongoing leadership in shaping a more innovative, competitive, and sustainable future for Malaysia.

INTERNATIONAL SMART MANUFACTURING FORUM & MTE 2025



The International Smart Manufacturing Forum & Malaysia International Trade Fair on Industrial Automation and Digital Transformation Solutions (MTE 2025) was officially launched by YBhg. Datuk Seri Hj. Hasnol Zam Zam bin Hj. Ahmad, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), at MITEC, Kuala Lumpur.

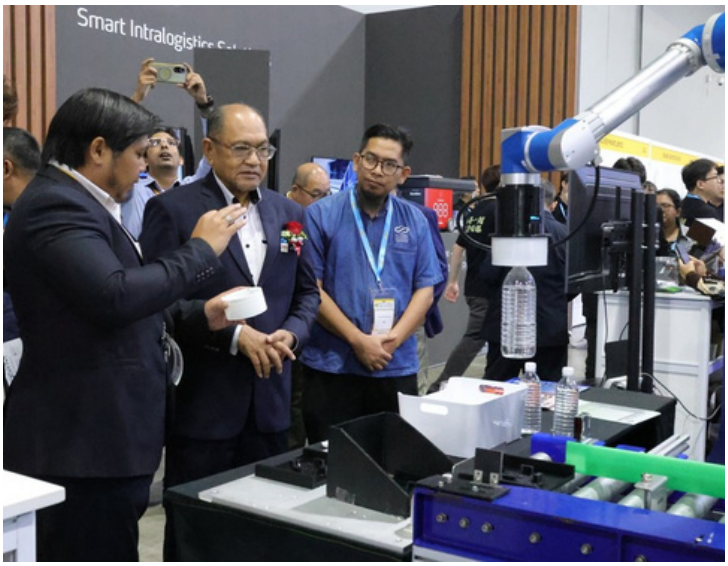
The event brings together industry leaders, researchers, policymakers, and technology providers from both local and international sectors. It serves as a strategic platform to strengthen Malaysia's competitiveness in smart manufacturing, industrial automation, and digital transformation.

In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General highlighted key national initiatives such as the National Technology and Innovation Sandbox (NTIS), Malaysia Startup Ecosystem Roadmap (SUPER 2021–2030), KL20, as well as the roles of Cradle Fund and the MySTI Programme—all of which play a crucial role in driving Malaysia's innovation ecosystem forward.

Following the ceremony, the Secretary-General toured several exhibition pavilions and booths, including the MIFA Pavilion, Kardex, and other industry technology showcases featuring the latest advancements in automation, digitalisation, and innovative solutions.

INTERNATIONAL SMART MANUFACTURING FORUM & MTE 2025







MOSTI expressed its hope that this forum and exhibition will serve as a catalyst in accelerating Malaysia's transformation towards a sustainable, inclusive, and globally competitive smart industry.

Among the distinguished attendees were YB Datuk Larry Sng, President of Malaysia Timber Industry Board (MTIB); Ts. Eng. Muhammad Didi Hendra Shah, President of Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA); Mr. Edwin Lai, Managing Director of MTE Exhibition Sdn Bhd; Datin Lorela Chia, President of MASSCI; Dr. Raymon Krishnan, President of LSCMS; Mr. Lee Seng Thye, President of MWMA; and Mr. Yong Yoon Kit, Vice Chairman of FMM Industry 4.0 & Digital Economy Committee.

INTERNATIONAL SMART MANUFACTURING FORUM & MTE 2025







Smart Manufacturing Forum 2025

The Smart Manufacturing Forum 2025, co-organized by the Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA), was successfully held at MITEC Kuala Lumpur. The forum was officially launched by YBhg. Datuk Seri Haji Hasnol Zam Zam Bin Haji Ahmad, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), marking the second consecutive year of this impactful event.

The objective of the forum and accompanying expo was to showcase and elevate local technology providers, connecting them to international industry players and opportunities. This initiative reflects our commitment to strengthening Malaysia's position in the global smart manufacturing ecosystem.

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to EPIC BERHAD for their generous sponsorship, which made SMF2025 possible. Our heartfelt thanks also go to the dedicated MIFA Excos and members who worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth execution of the event.

Special recognition goes to the MTE Exhibition team, especially Mr. Edwin Lai, for their tremendous support and professionalism throughout the journey. Above all, we express our sincere gratitude to MOSTI for their unwavering collaboration and continuous support, which were instrumental in driving the success of SMF2025.

INTERNATIONAL SMART MANUFACTURING FORUM & MTE 2025



We are also truly grateful to Dr. Raslan & MSCA, as well as our valued members from IOT SATA, HADI VENTURE SB, T-ROBOT, MAISHINCE ACADEMY, MYDUINO, CUTE IIUM, ICES UTEM, AKAR INDAH, UMORIE, and many others, whose continuous support, active participation, and valuable contributions have greatly enriched the forum and expo.

Your involvement reflects the strong spirit of collaboration within the industry and plays a vital role in advancing smart manufacturing and digital transformation initiatives.





Advancing Smart Manufacturing & Digital Transformation

Together, let us continue to empower more local technology providers, strengthen innovation capabilities, and pave the way towards building a more advanced, resilient, and globally competitive Malaysia.

INTERNATIONAL SMART MANUFACTURING FORUM & MTE 2025



The International Smart Munfacturing Forum & Malaysia International Trade Fair on Industrial Automation and Digital Transformation Solutions (MTE 2025) was successfully launched, bringing together key industry leaders, government representatives, and technology experts.

The event highlights Malaysia's commitment towards accelerating Industry 4.0 adoption and digital transformation across manufacturing sectors.

Industry Collaboration
Strengthening partnerships between government, industry, and technology providers.

IR4.0 Focus
Emphasizing smart manufacturing, automation, and digitalisation.

Future Ready
Driving innovation towards a sustainable and competitive industry ecosystem.

Driving Malaysia's Digital Future

This initiative reflects the nation's strong vision in building a future-ready manufacturing ecosystem through innovation, smart technologies, and strategic collaboration.

MIFA PRESIDENT EXPLORES INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT CHINA EXPO







28 August 2025

Ir. Ts. Hj. Muhammad Didi Hendra Shah Bin Norharashid, President of Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA), recently attended an industry expo in China as part of MIFA's ongoing efforts to strengthen international collaboration and explore new opportunities in advanced technology, manufacturing and industrial innovation.

During the visit, the MIFA President engaged with exhibitors, technology providers and industry leaders to gain insights into the latest developments in smart manufacturing, automation, robotics and digital transformation. The expo also provided a valuable platform to identify potential strategic partnerships and collaboration opportunities between Malaysia and China.

The visit reflects MIFA's commitment to expanding its international network and bringing back new ideas, technologies and best practices that can support Malaysia's industrial ecosystem and Industry 4.0 agenda.

Through such international engagements, MIFA continues to strengthen its role in connecting local industry players with global opportunities and future-ready technologies.

MIFA COURTESY VISIT TO AG MGATE IN KUALA LUMPUR







Kuala Lumpur, 3 Oct 2025 - MIFA courtesy visit to AG MGate Office in Damansara Heights, KL. MIFA was represented by its President, Ir.Ts. Muhammad Didi Hendra Shah, accompanied by Mohd Zakry Mohd Sa'ed, the CEO of MIFA Academy.

Apart from the introductory business presentation by AG MGate CEO, Mr Faizal Shebli, the primary objectives of the visit were to formally invite AG MGate to join MIFA as a member and to explore potential business opportunities through strategic collaboration on Smart solutions, business automation and digitisation initiatives.

We were also warmly welcomed by Mr Mohan Vasudevan, the Group Executive Chairman of Aventra Group Sdn Bhd, who shared his vision and mission throughout the company's journey in providing the right and needful solutions for their established clients worldwide.

AG MGate, a member of the Aventra Group International, is a prominent provider of digital transformation solutions with a strong focus on Digital Cities, Data & AI, and Cloud Services. They actively engage in projects leveraging AI and IoT solutions to enhance urban development and industrial efficiency.

MIFA SUPPORTS BUSINESS IT ARCHITECTURE SERIES (BITAS) CONFERENCE 2025



Driving AI Success Through Enterprise Architecture and Strategic Collaboration

The Malaysia Industry Forward Association is proud to support the upcoming Business IT Architecture Series (BITAS) Conference 2025, which will take place on 27 August 2025 at Amari Kuala Lumpur.

Carrying the theme, “Architecting the AI Success”, this year’s conference will explore how strategic Enterprise Architecture can drive meaningful, business-focused outcomes in an increasingly AI-powered landscape. As organisations continue to embrace digital transformation, BITAS 2025 aims to provide leaders with the right strategies, frameworks and practical insights to ensure that AI adoption is aligned with real business value.

Participants can look forward to an Executive Leadership Roundtable featuring C-suite and Enterprise Architecture leaders, inspiring keynote sessions and case studies from industry experts, as well as engaging discussions on AI readiness, stakeholder alignment and assisted architecture. The conference will also provide valuable networking opportunities, bringing together professionals, decision-makers and transformation champions from across industries.

For organisations leading digital strategy, driving enterprise transformation or building future-ready architecture practices, Business IT Architecture Series (BITAS) Conference 2025 offers an excellent platform to exchange ideas, strengthen collaboration and shape the future of digital enterprise together.

MIFA VISITS YAYASAN UNITI TO EXPLORE FUTURE COLLABORATION





Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA) recently paid a courtesy visit to Yayasan Uniti, where the delegation had the honour of meeting with Dr. Syed Omar Syed Agil.

Established in 1998, Yayasan Uniti is a well-respected foundation dedicated to empowering communities through education, welfare, poverty alleviation and humanitarian initiatives. Over the years, the foundation has implemented various programmes to support underprivileged families, provide educational assistance, disaster relief and community development efforts across Malaysia.

During the visit, MIFA and Yayasan Uniti exchanged views on potential areas of collaboration, particularly in programmes related to skills development, youth empowerment, education, digital literacy and social impact initiatives. Both organisations shared a common aspiration to create greater opportunities for communities through strategic partnerships and future-oriented programmes.

The delegation was warmly welcomed by Dr. Syed Omar Syed Agil, who has more than 35 years of experience in the education sector and currently serves not only as the CEO of Yayasan Uniti, but also as the Marketing Director of UNITI Asia Group. Under his leadership, Yayasan Uniti continues to champion initiatives focused on education, welfare and community empowerment.

MIFA looks forward to strengthening its relationship with Yayasan Uniti and exploring future collaborations that can contribute meaningfully towards nation-building, social development and the advancement of Malaysia's communities.

STRENGTHENING THE PATH FORWARD: MIFA EXCO MEETING WITH NEW PATRON







28 January 2026

Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA) recently held an Exco meeting with its newly appointed Patron, Ts. Dr. Raslan Bin Ahmad, on 28 January 2026 at MIFA's new office located in Menara Arena Uniti.

The meeting marked an important introduction session between the MIFA Exco and Dr. Raslan, providing an excellent platform to share MIFA's vision, mission and future direction. It was also an opportunity to present MIFA's ongoing initiatives and discuss how the association can continue to play a greater role in supporting Malaysia's industrial transformation agenda.

A key highlight of the session was the open and constructive discussion on MIFA's plans, priorities and activities for 2026. The Exco and Patron exchanged ideas on strengthening MIFA's programmes, expanding industry collaborations and creating more impactful initiatives that will benefit members, strategic partners and the wider industry community.

Overall, the meeting was highly positive and productive, reflecting a shared commitment to drive MIFA forward with renewed momentum and stronger leadership for the year ahead.

MIFA PRESIDENT ADVANCES ROS 2 INDUSTRY READINESS



Ir. Ts. Hj. Muhammad Didi Hendra Shah Bin Norharashid, President of Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA), recently participated in the Robot Operating System 2 (ROS 2) Technology Workshop under the MARii Certification Programme, organised by Malaysia Automotive, Robotics and IoT Institute (MARii).

Held at PARKROYAL COLLECTION Kuala Lumpur, the workshop provided valuable insights into the latest advancements in ROS 2 technology, autonomous systems, and real-world robotics applications across industrial environments.The programme emphasised the strategic importance of ROS 2 as a foundational skillset for future robotic engineers. As industries continue to shift towards automation and intelligent systems, mastering ROS is becoming a critical prerequisite in developing highly skilled talent capable of supporting next-generation manufacturing and smart industry ecosystems.

Looking ahead, initiatives such as this play a crucial role in preparing engineers within the next five years, equipping them with the necessary competencies to meet the rapidly growing demand for robotics professionals. Industry projections indicate a significant talent gap, with an estimated requirement of up to 200,000 robotic engineers to support ongoing digital transformation and automation efforts. Through this engagement, participants gained deeper exposure to the application of ROS 2 across various sectors — from assembly line automation to advanced robotics and humanoid systems — further strengthening industry readiness.

MIFA's active participation reflects its ongoing commitment to nurturing future-ready talent, enhancing technical capabilities, and fostering strategic collaborations in line with Malaysia's Industrial Revolution 4.0 agenda and long-term digital transformation goals.

MIFA EXCO MEETING #2 WITH PATRON FOCUSES ON 2026 STRATEGIC DIRECTION









Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA) held its second Exco Meeting for 2026 together with its Patron, Ts. Dr. Raslan Bin Ahmad, on 16 February 2026.

The meeting continued the positive momentum established during the earlier session, bringing together the Exco and Patron to further discuss MIFA's strategic direction, priorities and planned activities for the year ahead.

Among the key matters discussed were the strengthening of MIFA's programmes, upcoming industry engagements, collaboration opportunities and initiatives aimed at creating greater impact for members and the wider industrial ecosystem. The session also focused on identifying new areas of growth and ensuring that MIFA remains aligned with current industry needs and national development priorities.

The Exco and Patron exchanged valuable ideas and insights on how MIFA can further enhance its role in supporting industrial transformation, technology adoption and talent development across Malaysia. Overall, the meeting was productive and forward-looking, reflecting the strong commitment of both the Exco and Patron to continue driving Malaysia Industry Forward Association towards a stronger and more impactful year in 2026.

MIFA PATRON JOINS JOINT DELEGATION LED BY MSCA CHAIRMAN



25 February 2026

Ts. Dr. Raslan Bin Ahmad recently led a joint delegation engagement involving representatives from government agencies, industry players and technology organisations to explore new opportunities in smart city development, digitalisation and strategic collaboration.

The delegation, organised under the leadership of Malaysia Smart City Alliance Association, brought together various stakeholders to exchange ideas, share initiatives and strengthen cooperation in areas related to smart technologies, AI and sustainable urban development.

As Patron of Malaysia Industry Forward Association, Dr. Raslan's active involvement reflects the strong commitment to building greater collaboration between industry, government and technology providers. The engagement also created opportunities for members to showcase their capabilities and discuss future partnerships that can contribute towards Malaysia's digital transformation agenda.

Among the key focus areas discussed were smart city solutions, emerging technologies, talent development and future collaboration initiatives with strategic partners. The session further highlighted the importance of creating a stronger ecosystem that supports innovation, industrial growth and the adoption of advanced technologies across Malaysia.

MIFA welcomes and fully supports such collaborative efforts, which continue to open doors for meaningful partnerships and strengthen the nation's journey towards a smarter, more innovative and digitally connected future.

STRENGTHENING DIGITAL COLLABORATION IN PERAK

25 February 2026

MIFA was pleased to be part of an engagement session in Ipoh together with YB Azlan and Perak Digital.

The event provided an excellent platform to strengthen relationships and exchange ideas on the future of digital transformation, technology adoption and smart initiatives in the state of Perak. Discussions focused on opportunities for collaboration between industry players, government agencies and digital ecosystem partners in supporting innovation-driven growth.

MIFA welcomes the opportunity to work closely with strategic stakeholders such as Perak Digital in advancing initiatives related to smart industry, digital talent development and emerging technologies. The session also highlighted the importance of stronger partnerships in supporting Malaysia's journey towards a more connected, innovative and digitally empowered future.

In line with MIFA's commitment to driving Industry 4.0 adoption nationwide, the engagement also served as a valuable platform to explore future collaborations in areas such as smart manufacturing, digital infrastructure, workforce upskilling and innovation ecosystem development.

Through continuous engagement with state agencies and industry leaders, MIFA remains dedicated to strengthening Malaysia's digital transformation agenda while creating more opportunities for industry growth, technology integration and sustainable economic advancement.





MIFA EXPLORES COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES WITH PDX 2026 PENANG



Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA) recently held a strategic discussion session with Ts. Lukas J. Tan, Founder of OPERION Ecommerce & Software Sdn. Bhd. and Organising Chairman of the Penang Digitalisation-AI Conference & Exhibition (PDX 2026), regarding potential collaboration opportunities between both parties.

The discussion focused on potential industry collaboration, participation opportunities for MIFA members, as well as strengthening networking and ecosystem development within the areas of digitalization, AI, smart manufacturing and Industry 4.0.

PDX 2026 is one of Malaysia's emerging digital and AI-focused conferences and exhibitions that brings together industry leaders, technology providers, government agencies and innovators under one platform. The event is scheduled to take place on 15 – 16 July 2026 at Setia SPICE Convention Centre, Penang.

Among the key matters discussed was the involvement and participation of MIFA members in the upcoming exhibition, including opportunities for business networking, technology showcasing, strategic partnerships and industry engagement with local and international ecosystem players.

MIFA believes that collaborations such as this will continue to create valuable opportunities for members to expand industry exposure, strengthen business connections and accelerate digital transformation initiatives in line with Malaysia's Industry 4.0 aspirations.

MIFA WORKING VISIT TO ILIPP, PULAU PINANG





BALIK PULAU, 6 March – Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA) conducted a working visit to the peaceful and serene Institut Latihan Islam Pulau Pinang (ILIPP) in Balik Pulau, Penang today as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration in training and human capital development.

During the visit, the MIFA Academy delegation held a meeting with the Head of the Training Unit of ILIPP, Tuan Haji Fakhruddin. The meeting aimed to explore potential strategic collaboration between MIFA and ILIPP, particularly in areas related to training development, skills enhancement, and initiatives that support human capital development aligned with the needs of future industries.

Both parties also exchanged views on opportunities to strengthen training programmes that could enhance workforce employability while expanding exposure to technology-driven and industry-related competencies

MIFA PARTICIPATES IN MARA ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME











Malaysia Industry Forward Association was honoured to be invited to a special programme organised by Majlis Amanah Rakyat held near Hotel Premiera Kuala Lumpur.

The programme featured an engaging dialogue session with Dato' Sri Ibrahim Bin Ahmad, moderated by Zahari Aziz. Held under the theme "Building Leaders, Entrepreneurial Society", the session offered valuable insights into leadership, entrepreneurship and the important role of MARA in developing resilient and progressive entrepreneurs across various industries.

Dato' Sri Ibrahim shared his experiences and reflections on leadership, the history and achievements of MARA, as well as the realities faced by entrepreneurs in today's environment. Among the key messages highlighted were the importance of sincerity, passion, perseverance and the ability to remain relevant despite challenges and setbacks.

The programme concluded with a networking session and festive gathering, providing participants with the opportunity to connect with MARA officers and fellow entrepreneurs in a meaningful and relaxed environment.

NETWORKING SESSION WITH PERSATUAN PESARA BOMBA MALAYSIA

President of Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA), Ir. Ts. Hj. Muhammad Didi Hendra Shah Bin Norharashid recently attended a berbuka puasa gathering together with Tuan Azizan, President of Persatuan Pesara Bomba Malaysia, along with representatives from the association.

The gathering provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships, foster meaningful discussions and explore potential collaboration opportunities between both organizations in areas related to community engagement, knowledge sharing and future seminar initiatives.

Also present during the session was Dato' Dr. Soh Chai Hock as the special advisor, further enhancing the value of the networking session through the exchange of ideas and industry perspectives.

The session reflected the importance of strategic networking and collaboration in building stronger connections between industry associations and community-based organizations, in line with MIFA's commitment towards inclusive engagement and nation-building initiatives.

The networking session also highlighted the importance of fostering stronger cooperation between industry associations and community-based organisations in supporting social development and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

Through engagements such as this, MIFA continues to expand its collaborative network while promoting meaningful partnerships that contribute towards community empowerment, leadership engagement and sustainable national development.





MIFA EXPLORES COLLABORATION WITH PERSATUAN PESARA BOMBA MALAYSIA








Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA) recently held a collaboration discussion session with Persatuan Pesara Bomba Malaysia regarding potential strategic cooperation and the organisation of future seminar programmes.

The meeting took place at Kelab Golf Perkhidmatan Awam Malaysia (KGPA) and focused on exploring collaborative initiatives, knowledge-sharing programmes and industry engagement activities that could benefit both organizations and the wider community.

The discussion was led by Tuan Azizan, President of Persatuan Pesara Bomba Malaysia, together with the association's representatives. Also present during the session was Dato' Dr. Soh Chai Hock as the special advisor.

Through this engagement, both parties expressed their interest in strengthening collaboration through seminars, networking sessions and future programmes related to community development, leadership and industry advancement. MIFA believes such strategic collaborations can help create meaningful platforms for knowledge exchange and stronger industry-community relations.

MIFA SUPPORTS FUTURE TVET TALENT DEVELOPMENT



The President of Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA) recently attended the launch of the GITC TVET Placement Center (GTPC), held at the Tun Azizan Zainul Abidin Auditorium, Putrajaya Corporation. The historic event was officiated by the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia and Chairman of the National TVET Council, YAB Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi. The ceremony brought together key stakeholders from government agencies, industry players, educational institutions, and TVET-related organizations, reflecting Malaysia's continued commitment to strengthening the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) ecosystem as a catalyst for developing a highly skilled workforce.

During the event, the MIFA President had the opportunity to engage in a brief discussion with the Deputy Prime Minister, highlighting MIFA's commitment to supporting the national TVET agenda through closer collaboration with government agencies and industry partners. The discussion focused on the importance of accelerating digital transformation, talent development, and the creation of high-skilled employment opportunities. The Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the need for stronger cooperation between government, industry, and training institutions to ensure that TVET graduates possess the competencies required by today's evolving job market.

> **"Strong partnerships and continuous knowledge sharing are essential in driving industry growth, fostering innovation, and building a sustainable future."**





MIFA SUPPORTS FUTURE TVET TALENT DEVELOPMENT



The launch of GTPC marks a significant step toward improving job matching opportunities for TVET graduates while addressing industry workforce demands. In line with this initiative, MIFA remains committed to supporting talent development through Industry 4.0, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Automation, and Smart Manufacturing programs. Through active engagement with its industry members and strategic partners, MIFA continues to play a vital role in bridging the gap between industry requirements and future talent, contributing to Malaysia's competitiveness in the global economy.

> **"TVET is no longer a secondary pathway but the primary route to quality employment, better income, social mobility and national economic competitiveness."**









MIFA STRENGTHENS STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT WITH FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT MALAYSIA



The President of Malaysia Industry Forward Association (MIFA) recently participated in a special strategic meeting with the Director-General of the Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia (JBPM). The visit served as an important platform to strengthen collaboration between JBPM, the Persatuan Pesara Bomba Malaysia (PPBM), and industry stakeholders.

MIFA attended the session in its capacity as a technology advisor to PPBM, reinforcing its commitment to supporting innovation and digital transformation initiatives across various sectors.

The meeting was led by Tuan Azizan, President of PPBM, with Dato' Dr. Soh Chai Hock attending as Special Advisor. During the discussion, appreciation was expressed for the progressive leadership of the Fire and Rescue Department, particularly in driving new initiatives aimed at enhancing organisational effectiveness and long-term sustainability.

The session also highlighted opportunities for greater collaboration in talent development, knowledge sharing, and community engagement.

> **"Technology, innovation, and strategic partnerships are essential in building a more resilient and future-ready public service ecosystem."**



MIFA STRENGTHENS STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT WITH FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT MALAYSIA



A key focus of the meeting was the exploration of technology-driven initiatives, including the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) solutions to improve operational efficiency, training capabilities, and emergency management. All parties expressed strong interest in pursuing future strategic collaborations that would create value for the organisation, its members, and the wider community. The meeting concluded on a positive note, marking the beginning of a stronger partnership towards a more innovative, resilient, and future-ready fire and rescue ecosystem.





WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

MIFA is thrilled to announce the addition of four dynamic and innovative companies to our network. Each of these companies brings unique expertise and valuable insights to the table, strengthening our mission to drive growth, innovation, and industry excellence. Let's take a closer look at our newest members:

Bruder Tech Sdn. Bhd.
Established in 2007, Bruder Tech Sdn. Bhd. is recognized for its expertise in delivering cutting-edge technological solutions and operational efficiency improvements across multiple industries. With a strong focus on innovation and digital transformation, the company continues to support businesses in enhancing productivity, competitiveness and long-term growth. As a new MIFA member, Bruder Tech aims to collaborate with industry players in advancing future-ready technologies and strengthening Malaysia's industrial landscape.

Budi Kencana Sdn. Bhd.
Budi Kencana Sdn. Bhd. is a forward-thinking company specializing in digital marketing, web development and technology-driven business solutions. The company has helped numerous organizations strengthen their digital presence and improve business performance through innovative and effective strategies. Through its membership with MIFA, Budi Kencana looks forward to expanding strategic collaborations and contributing towards Malaysia's digital economy and smart business ecosystem.

Ovalapp Sdn. Bhd.
Established in 2016, Ovalapp Sdn. Bhd. began as a creative design and printing company before expanding into publishing, branding and digital content solutions. The company is known for its creative approach, modern branding expertise and commitment to delivering impactful visual communication solutions. By joining MIFA, Ovalapp aims to connect with industry partners, exchange ideas and support the growth of Malaysia's creative and digital industries.

Elix Solution Sdn. Bhd.
Elix Solution Sdn. Bhd. is actively involved in providing innovative training programmes and business solutions, particularly in IT, digital technologies and workforce development. The company is committed to empowering organizations and individuals with industry-relevant knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the digital era. As part of MIFA, Elix Solution seeks to foster stronger collaboration, talent development and industry readiness in line with the nation's Industrial Revolution 4.0 aspirations.

Together, these new members strengthen MIFA's mission of building a connected, innovative and future-driven industrial community that supports sustainable growth and technological advancement in Malaysia.

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES

PERKESO

LINDUNG PEKERJA

Employees' Social Security Act 1969 [Act 4]

- Employment Injury Scheme
- Invalidity Scheme
- Non-Employment Injury Scheme (LINDUNG 24 Jam)

LINDUNG KENDIRI

Self-Employment Social Security Act 2017 [Act 789]

LINDUNG

PEKERJA • KERJAYA • KENDIRI • KASIH

LINDUNG KERJAYA

Employment Insurance System Act 2017 [Act 800]

LINDUNG KASIH

Housewives' Social Security Act 2022 [Act 838]

PERKESO administers LINDUNG Pekerja, LINDUNG Kendiri, LINDUNG Kerjaya and LINDUNG Kasih to ensure workers in Malaysia have access to social protection, aligning with international practices

Effective 1 June 2026, PERKESO introduced LINDUNG 24 Jam following more than 38,000 non-employment-related accident claims rejected between 2015 and 2025. The scheme provides 24-hour protection for accident happened outside of working hours. Through LINDUNG 24 Jam scheme, eligible employees can receive Medical Benefit, Temporary Disablement Benefit, Permanent Disablement Benefit, Constant-Attendance Allowance, Physical or Vocational Rehabilitation, Dependant's Benefits, Funeral Benefit, and Education Benefit

Foreign and domestic workers are covered under Act 4, while self-employed individuals are covered under Act 789



PERKESO LINDUNG Semua

www.perkeso.gov.my



Ir. Ts. Hj. Muhammad Didi Hendra Shah Bin Norharashid, CMILT
MIFA PRESIDENT

STOP COMPETING WITH STARTUPS: GOVERNMENTS SHOULD ENABLE INNOVATION, NOT REPLACE IT

Malaysia has long aspired to become a regional leader in innovation, digital transformation, and high-value industries. Billions of ringgit have been allocated through grants, technology roadmaps, digitalisation programmes, and entrepreneurship initiatives to nurture local startups. Yet, despite these investments, many startups continue to struggle, not only against market forces, but sometimes against the very institutions established to support them. This raises an uncomfortable but necessary question:

Should government agencies be competing with startups, or should they be empowering them?

The answer is clear. Governments should be **market enablers**, not **market competitors.**

Governments Possess Advantages That Startups Never Will

A startup begins with an idea, limited capital, and a small team willing to take significant personal and financial risks. Every customer must be earned. Every investor must be convinced. Every failure carries the possibility of closure.

Government agencies, on the other hand, operate under fundamentally different conditions. They are supported by public funding, possess institutional credibility, have direct access to government data and infrastructure, and enjoy established relationships across ministries and public agencies.

When these agencies begin offering commercial products or services that compete directly with startups, the playing field is no longer level.

Competition should reward innovation, efficiency, and customer value, not institutional advantages.

The Hidden Cost of Government Competition

The consequences extend far beyond individual companies.

1. Investors Lose Confidence

Private investors seek markets where competition is fair and predictable. When government agencies become commercial players, investors perceive greater uncertainty. Why invest millions in a startup if a publicly funded organisation could eventually offer a similar solution with institutional advantages? Less investment ultimately means fewer innovative companies.

2. Innovation Slows

Innovation thrives under competitive pressure. Startups survive because they innovate faster, respond to customers more quickly, and continuously improve their products. Governments excel at governance, regulation, and public administration, but they are not designed to operate with the speed and agility required for commercial innovation. Rather than accelerating innovation, government competition may unintentionally slow it.

3. Public Funds Are Used Inefficiently

Taxpayer money should stimulate private-sector innovation, not duplicate it. If capable Malaysian startups already provide a technology solution, government resources should be directed toward helping these companies scale instead of building parallel systems that compete against them. Every ringgit invested should generate broader economic returns through business growth, employment, exports, and tax revenue.

4. Entrepreneurs Become Discouraged

Entrepreneurship requires courage. Founders invest years of their lives, often risking personal savings and financial security. When they see government agencies entering their markets instead of becoming customers or partners, confidence declines. Some entrepreneurs leave the sector. Others move overseas. Many simply choose not to innovate again. The nation loses far more than one company, it loses future innovators.



Ir. Ts. Hj. Muhammad Didi Hendra Shah Bin Norharashid, CMILT
MIFA PRESIDENT

STOP COMPETING WITH STARTUPS: GOVERNMENTS SHOULD ENABLE INNOVATION, NOT REPLACE IT

Governments Create Markets, They Should Not Dominate Them

The role of government is unique because it can shape markets in ways the private sector cannot. Governments establish policies, standards, procurement frameworks, funding programmes, and regulatory environments. These powers should be used to unlock innovation, not crowd it out. The most successful innovation economies understand this principle. Countries such as Singapore, Israel, Finland, South Korea, and Estonia rarely position government agencies as commercial competitors. Instead, governments act as facilitators by:

- Becoming the first customer for innovative local companies.
- Providing grants tied to commercial outcomes.
- Opening government procurement to startups.
- Supporting regulatory sandboxes for emerging technologies.
- Encouraging public-private partnerships.
- Helping startups expand internationally.
- Building national standards that encourage adoption rather than ownership.

Their governments create opportunities. Entrepreneurs create solutions.

A Better Model for Malaysia

Malaysia already has talented engineers, software developers, researchers, and entrepreneurs. What many startups lack is not capability, it is access. Government agencies can have far greater impact by becoming:

- Facilitators that connect startups with industry.
- Customers that validate local technologies through procurement.
- Regulators that provide clear and innovation-friendly rules.
- Funders that de-risk early-stage innovation.
- Export promoters that help Malaysian technology reach international markets.

When agencies collaborate instead of compete, the entire innovation ecosystem becomes stronger.

Collaboration Creates National Champions

Every successful technology nation has companies that become global ambassadors for its innovation ecosystem. These companies were not built because governments competed with them. They succeeded because governments created an environment where innovation could flourish.

Malaysia should aspire to build more globally competitive technology companies, not more government-owned commercial products. Strong startups generate employment, attract foreign investment, create export revenue, and strengthen national competitiveness. Their success ultimately benefits the government through higher tax revenues, greater a resilience, and improved public services.

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Conclusion

Government and startups should never be viewed as competitors. They are partners with complementary roles. Governments build the environment. Startups build the innovation. The true measure of a successful innovation policy is not how many products a government agency develops, but how many successful companies emerge because of the ecosystem it has created.

If Malaysia genuinely intends to become a high-income, innovation-driven economy, our public institutions must resist the temptation to compete with entrepreneurs. Instead, they should focus on enabling them to succeed.

The future belongs to nations where governments create opportunities, and startups seize them. That partnership, not competition, is the foundation of sustainable innovation and long-term economic prosperity.



Zakry MS
MIFA Academy

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE (EI): A DRIVING FACTOR PUSHING ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESS AND INDUSTRY ADVANCEMENT

In today's fast-paced, border-less, and increasingly interconnected digital world, the concept of Emotional Intelligence (EI) has emerged as a critical factor driving industries forward. While technical skills and expertise remain essential, the role of emotional intelligence in fostering effective leadership, team collaboration, customer relations, and workplace culture has proven to be indispensable. This article explores how emotional intelligence is not just a soft skill but a key driver of organizational success, contributing to innovation, employee satisfaction, and overall industry advancement.

What is Emotional Intelligence?

Emotional intelligence refers to the ability to recognize, understand, manage, and influence one's emotions, as well as the emotions of others. It is commonly broken down into five key components:

1. Self-awareness – Recognizing and understanding one's own emotions and their effect on thoughts and behavior.
2. Self-regulation – The ability to control or redirect disruptive emotions and impulses and adapt to changing circumstances.
3. Motivation – A passion for work that goes beyond money and status and a tendency to pursue goals with energy and persistence.
4. Empathy – The ability to understand the emotional makeup of other people and treat them according to their emotional reactions.
5. Social skills – The ability to manage relationships, build networks, and
navigate social complexities in the workplace.

Emotional Intelligence in Leadership

Strong leadership is often the defining factor in an organization's success. Leaders who exhibit emotional intelligence are better equipped to handle the challenges and stresses that come with guiding teams. They can create an environment where employees feel heard, understood, and valued, which leads to higher engagement and productivity.

Leaders with high emotional intelligence can also navigate conflicts with greater ease. By understanding the emotions of those involved, they can mediate disputes effectively, leading to healthier relationships and fostering a collaborative culture. This capability is essential for industries that require teamwork, such as tech, healthcare, and service sectors.

Furthermore, emotionally intelligent leaders inspire motivation. Theyencourage innovation by creating an atmosphere where employees feel safe to take risks, voice their ideas, and push boundaries without fear of judgmentor failure. This kind of leadership not only drives performance but also fosters long-term employee loyalty and retention.

Building Collaborative and Resilient Teams

In any industry, collaboration is key to innovation and progress. Emotional intelligence helps individuals build stronger relationships with colleagues, paving the way for effective teamwork. Employees with high emotional intelligence are more likely to communicate openly, listen actively, and resolve conflicts constructively. These behaviors significantly enhance group dynamics, ensuring teams can work cohesively toward shared goals.

Moreover, emotionally intelligent teams are more adaptable in the face of change. In industries undergoing rapid technological advancements or market shifts, the ability to remain resilient and agile is paramount. Employees who can manage their emotions during uncertain times are better able to adjust their strategies, continue problem-solving, and maintain their productivity, even when facing adversity.



En. Effendy Zulkifly
(Ketua Pegawai Teknologi Digital, YAPIEM)

AI TANPA MAQASID HANYA MESIN TANPA JIWA

Saya perasan satu perkara yang agak halus tetapi sangat besar implikasinya — hari ini kita terlalu cepat bercakap tentang keupayaan AI, tetapi terlalu lambat bertanya tentang arah tuju dan nilai yang sepatutnya memandu teknologi tersebut berdasarkan Maqasid Syariah.

Perbincangan mengenai AI sering tertumpu kepada model, data, automasi dan predictive power. Semuanya bergerak pantas, canggih dan mengagumkan. Namun tanpa sedar, kita sebenarnya sedang membina satu sistem yang mungkin lebih besar daripada sistem kewangan, lebih dalam daripada sistem politik, dan lebih senyap daripada sistem undang-undang. Bezanya, kali ini ia bergerak melalui algoritma yang tidak semua orang faham, tetapi semua orang akan merasai kesannya.

Atas sebab itu, saya cuba membina satu kerangka asas yang tidak bermula daripada teknologi semata-mata, tetapi daripada worldview dan nilai manusia itu sendiri. Saya menamakannya sebagai Maqasid-Based AI Governance Framework (MAGF). Bukan sekadar untuk kelihatan "Islamik", tetapi kerana kita memerlukan asas yang tetap dan tidak berubah walaupun teknologi sentiasa berubah.

Jika diperhatikan, kebanyakan perbincangan mengenai AI governance hari ini lebih tertumpu kepada aspek compliance, risk management dan policy. Semua itu penting, tetapi ia hanya berada di lapisan permukaan. Ia seperti membina sebuah bangunan yang indah tanpa benar-benar memastikan tanah di bawahnya kukuh dan stabil.

Di sinilah Maqasid memainkan peranan penting.

Konsep seperti hifz al-din, hifz al-nafs, hifz al-aql, hifz al-nasl dan hifz al-mal bukan sekadar teori fiqh yang dihafal dalam buku. Ia sebenarnya merupakan parameter asas untuk menilai sama ada sesuatu sistem itu memelihara manusia atau secara perlahan-lahan merosakkannya.

Sebagai contoh, AI yang mengoptimumkan engagement tetapi merosakkan pemikiran dan kesejahteraan mental manusia telah gagal dari sudut hifz al-aql. AI yang meningkatkan keuntungan syarikat tetapi menekan maruah pekerja pula gagal dari sudut hifz al-nafs dan hifz al-nasl. Manakala AI yang mengumpul data tanpa amanah dan ketelusan gagal dari sudut hifz al-mal serta tanggungjawab manusia sebagai khalifah.

Cabaran terbesar ialah apabila kerangka ini tidak diterapkan dari awal. Kita mungkin hanya akan menyedari kesannya apabila sistem tersebut sudah terlalu besar dan sukar diperbetulkan.

Dalam konteks ini, peranan institusi menjadi sangat kritikal. Kita tidak boleh bergantung kepada individu semata-mata untuk menjadi "ethical". Kita memerlukan mekanisme yang jelas seperti oversight council, algorithmic impact assessment, audit teknologi yang benar-benar memahami model AI, dan polisi yang hidup — bukan sekadar dokumen yang tersimpan di dalam laci.
Hakikatnya, AI hari ini bukan lagi sekadar teknologi. Ia telah menjadi infrastruktur kuasa.

Dan sejarah telah berkali-kali membuktikan bahawa apabila kuasa tidak diikat dengan amanah, akhirnya manusia sendiri yang akan menanggung akibatnya.





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(Ketua Pegawai Teknologi Digital, YAPIEM)

AI TANPA MAQASID HANYA MESIN TANPA JIWA

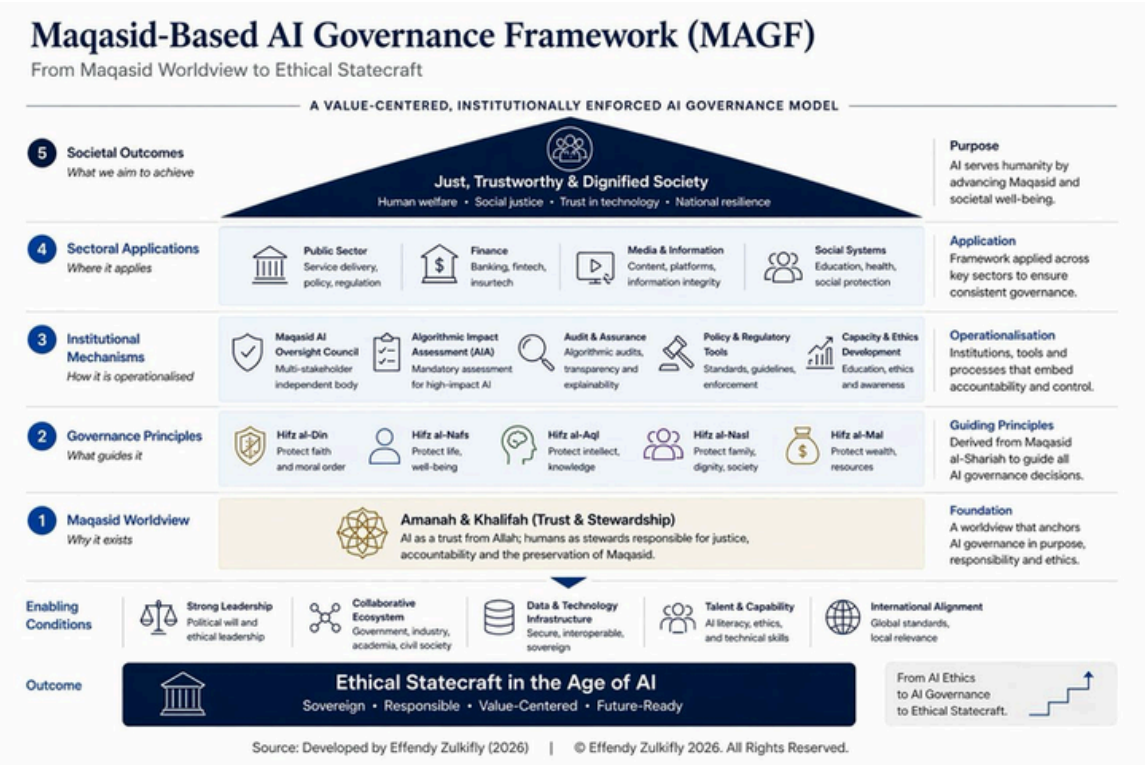
Menariknya, apabila semua ini disusun dengan betul, kita akan melihat bahawa AI governance bukan lagi soal mengawal teknologi semata-mata, tetapi soal membina kepercayaan. Kepercayaan terhadap sistem, institusi dan masa depan bahawa teknologi ini tidak akan menelan manusia, sebaliknya mengangkat martabat manusia.

Akhirnya, matlamat kita bukanlah untuk membina AI yang paling pintar.

Sebaliknya, kita sedang berusaha memastikan manusia tidak menjadi masyarakat yang paling lalai ketika berdepan teknologi paling berkuasa dalam sejarah peradaban manusia.

Jika kita tersilap langkah hari ini, kesannya bukan hanya kepada satu generasi, tetapi mungkin kepada beberapa generasi akan datang. Dan itu bukan sesuatu yang boleh dipandang ringan.

Effendy Zulkifly ialah pengasas gerakan Centre for AI, Blockchain & Advanced Research (CABAR), sebuah platform yang menghimpunkan pakar teknologi, pembuat dasar dan komuniti bagi memperjuangkan AI beretika, blockchain dan kedaulatan digital. Beliau juga merupakan penulis buku Kecerdasan Buatan (AI), Undang-Undang & Etika: Sempadan Kuasa yang menggabungkan perspektif teknokratik, perundangan dan Maqasid Syariah demi masa depan AI Malaysia yang berdaulat.





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(Ketua Pegawai Teknologi Digital, YAPIEM)

MAQASID-BASED AI GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK (VER2.0)

Kerangka Maqasid-Based AI Governance Framework (MAGF v2) ini sebenarnya cuba bawa perbincangan AI keluar daripada sekadar teknologi atau compliance, kepada satu sistem yang lebih menyeluruh, bermula dari cara kita melihat manusia dan berakhir kepada kesan terhadap tamadun.

Di lapisan paling bawah, ia bermula dengan worldview. AI tidak neutral. Ia sentiasa lahir daripada cara fikir tertentu. Dalam MAGF, asasnya ialah amanah, khalifah dan maruah manusia. Ini penting, sebab kalau asas ini salah, seluruh sistem di atasnya akan lari arah walaupun nampak "canggih".

Kemudian naik ke maqasid protection, iaitu memastikan AI bukan sekadar tidak merosakkan, tetapi aktif menjaga perkara asas seperti agama, nyawa, akal, keturunan, harta dan maruah. Ini mengubah AI daripada sekadar alat kepada penjaga nilai.

Seterusnya risk & harm dan governance, yang lebih dekat dengan apa yang kita biasa dengar dalam dunia AI hari ini, seperti bias, privasi, accountability dan explainability. Ini layer teknikal dan polisi untuk kawal risiko dan pastikan sistem boleh dipertanggungjawabkan.

Di atas itu ada Shariah-ethical review, yang menilai keputusan AI berdasarkan konsep seperti maslahah dan mafsadah. Ini bukan sekadar compliance, tetapi timbang tara nilai, sesuatu yang sangat kurang dalam banyak sistem AI moden.

Kemudian masuk ke operational control, iaitu memastikan semua ini benar-benar dilaksanakan melalui SOP, data governance, audit dan pemantauan model. Tanpa layer ini, semua prinsip hanya tinggal konsep.

Akhir sekali, lapisan paling atas ialah civilisational impact. Ini yang membezakan MAGF dengan banyak framework lain. AI dinilai bukan hanya dari segi prestasi atau risiko, tetapi kesannya terhadap keadilan, kepercayaan masyarakat dan masa depan institusi.

Ringkasnya, MAGF v2 ini bukan sekadar framework kawalan AI. Ia adalah peta arah, daripada "apa yang AI boleh buat" kepada "apa yang AI sepatutnya capai" untuk manusia dan tamadun.





Azad Jasmi
8 Mac 2026

STRATEGI KEDAULATAN TEKNOLOGI DAN MASA DEPAN NEGARA

Dunia hari ini tidak lagi diukur melalui kekuatan retorik atau kekayaan sumber semula jadi semata-mata. Sebaliknya, keupayaan menguasai teknologi, ilmu pengetahuan dan sistem pengeluaran sendiri menjadi penentu kekuatan sesebuah negara. Saya mengambil iktibar daripada perkembangan geopolitik semasa, khususnya bagaimana sesebuah negara mampu membangunkan keupayaan sendiri walaupun berdepan tekanan, sekatan dan kekurangan sumber. Pengajaran yang paling besar bukanlah mengenai peperangan, tetapi tentang keberanian membina teknologi sendiri serta berdiri di atas keupayaan sendiri. Malaysia tidak perlu meniru mana-mana negara dari sudut konflik, tetapi perlu mencontohi semangat membangunkan kapasiti teknologi tempatan. Negara yang hanya menjadi pengguna teknologi akan terus bergantung kepada pihak luar, manakala negara yang menjadi pencipta mampu menentukan hala tuju sendiri. Dalam landskap geopolitik moden, kebergantungan kepada teknologi asing menjadikan sesebuah negara lebih terdedah kepada perubahan politik, ekonomi dan keselamatan antarabangsa. Sebaliknya, pembangunan teknologi domestik memberikan autonomi strategik dan memperkukuh kedudukan negara dalam membuat keputusan. Malaysia pernah menunjukkan aspirasi tersebut melalui pembangunan industri nasional seperti Proton, yang bertujuan membina keupayaan reka bentuk, kejuruteraan dan pembuatan tempatan. Hari ini, cabaran menjadi lebih besar apabila dunia dipacu oleh semikonduktor, kecerdasan buatan (AI), automasi, bioteknologi dan teknologi bahan termaju. Untuk meningkatkan kedudukan dalam rantaian nilai global, Malaysia perlu beralih daripada model ekonomi pemasangan kepada ekonomi berasaskan penyelidikan, pembangunan, inovasi dan pemilikan harta intelek.

Daripada Pengguna kepada Pencipta

Malaysia perlu bergerak daripada nation of user kepada nation of creator. Negara bukan sekadar menggunakan teknologi, tetapi perlu membangunkan teknologi sendiri, memiliki harta intelek serta menguasai sistem kritikal. Perubahan ini memerlukan pelaburan berterusan dalam penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D), kerjasama erat antara universiti dan industri serta kepimpinan yang sanggup berfikir untuk manfaat jangka panjang. Kepakaran tidak lahir melalui publisiti, tetapi melalui disiplin, ketekunan dan usaha yang berterusan. Negara juga memerlukan dasar yang stabil bagi memastikan pembangunan teknologi dapat berkembang secara mampan.

Lima Pengajaran Strategik

1. Melahirkan lebih ramai pencipta teknologi
2. Memperkasa pendidikan teknikal
3. Memperkukuh keupayaan teknologi tempatan
4. Menguasai keseluruhan rantaian nilai
5. Membudayakan inovasi

Peranan Parlimen

Perbahasan di Parlimen perlu memberi tumpuan kepada agenda strategik seperti pembangunan teknologi, ekonomi, dasar industri, keselamatan negara dan kesejahteraan rakyat, berbanding polemik politik yang tidak memberi nilai tambah.Dalam dunia yang semakin kompetitif, negara memerlukan dasar yang berasaskan data, teknologi dan inovasi bagi memperkukuh kedudukan Malaysia di peringkat antarabangsa.

Penutup

Malaysia tidak perlu membangunkan teknologi untuk tujuan konflik, tetapi perlu menguasai ilmu, kejuruteraan dan inovasi bagi memastikan negara memiliki daya tahan strategik.Akhirnya, persoalan sebenar bukanlah sama ada Malaysia mampu melakukannya, tetapi sama ada kita berani berubah. Negara yang hanya membeli teknologi akan terus bergantung kepada pihak lain, manakala negara yang berani mencipta akan membentuk masa depannya sendiri.Semoga perkongsian ini menjadi renungan tentang kepentingan membina budaya inovasi, memperkukuh ilmu dan membangunkan Malaysia sebagai sebuah negara pencipta.



Azad Jasmi
20 Okt 2025

STRATEGI KE ARAH PEMBANGUNAN DAN PENYUSUNAN SEMULA EKOSISTEM AUTOMOTIF NASIONAL SEBAGAI "MOTORSPORTS ECONOMY"

Malaysia mempunyai asas kukuh dalam pembangunan sukan bermotor melalui komuniti yang aktif, litar perlumbaan, bakat tempatan dan industri automotif yang berkembang. Namun, pelbagai disiplin seperti perlumbaan litar, rally, drifting, motocross, go-kart, autocross, off-road, gymkhana serta pameran automotif masih bergerak secara berasingan tanpa satu hala tuju nasional.

Sudah tiba masanya semua komponen ini disatukan di bawah satu jenama nasional, Motorsport Malaysia, yang bukan sekadar melihat sukan bermotor sebagai aktiviti perlumbaan, tetapi sebagai pemacu ekonomi negara.

Di peringkat global, industri motorsport merupakan ekosistem bernilai berbilion dolar yang merangkumi kejuruteraan, teknologi, pendidikan teknikal, logistik, media, pelancongan dan penyelidikan. Negara seperti United Kingdom, Jepun dan Jerman telah membuktikan bahawa pembangunan industri ini mampu mewujudkan peluang pekerjaan, menarik pelaburan asing serta memacu inovasi automotif.

Malaysia juga berpotensi mencapai kejayaan yang sama dengan meletakkan motorsport sebagai aktiviti industri yang diiktiraf di bawah dasar pelaburan negara. Melalui pengiktirafan ini, sektor motorsport boleh menikmati insentif pelaburan, geran latihan, pemindahan teknologi serta sokongan penyelidikan daripada agensi berkaitan.

Motorsport Sebagai Pemacu Ekonomi

Apabila motorsport dibangunkan sebagai industri, setiap pasukan perlumbaan menjadi entiti perniagaan, setiap mekanik menjadi tenaga mahir bertauliah, manakala bengkel, syarikat logistik, jurufoto, media dan penganjur acara menjadi sebahagian daripada rantaian nilai ekonomi negara.

Ekosistem ini turut membuka peluang kepada pelaburan antarabangsa melalui pembinaan pusat penyelidikan automotif, pengeluaran komponen berprestasi tinggi dan penganjuran kejohanan bertaraf dunia. Pada masa sama, acara berskala besar mampu meningkatkan sektor pelancongan, perhotelan, penerbangan serta perniagaan tempatan.

Struktur Pengurusan Baharu

Penulis mencadangkan penubuhan Motorsport Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. sebagai organisasi induk yang menyelaras pembangunan industri secara strategik. Dalam struktur ini, Motorsport Association of Malaysia (MAM) terus menjalankan fungsi teknikal seperti pelesenan, keselamatan dan pematuhan piawaian FIA/FIM, manakala pembangunan industri, kerjasama komersial, penajaan dan penjenamaan nasional diselaraskan oleh Motorsport Malaysia. Pendekatan ini dapat mengelakkan pertindihan fungsi serta memastikan pembangunan industri lebih tersusun dan profesional.

Kepimpinan Berasaskan Merit

Pembangunan industri motorsport memerlukan pasukan pengurusan yang dipilih berdasarkan merit, pengalaman industri dan kepakaran strategik. Pasukan ini perlu terdiri daripada pakar teknikal, perancang acara, profesional media, pakar pemasaran dan tokoh industri yang mampu menyediakan National Motorsport Master Plan lengkap dengan sasaran prestasi dan pelan pembangunan jangka panjang.



Azad Jasmi
20 Okt 2025

STRATEGI KE ARAH PEMBANGUNAN DAN PENYUSUNAN SEMULA EKOSISTEM AUTOMOTIF NASIONAL SEBAGAI "MOTORSPORTS ECONOMY"

Penyatuan Ekosistem Motorsport

Cabaran terbesar motorsport di Malaysia ialah fragmentasi. Banyak kelab dan penganjur bergerak secara berasingan sehingga menyebabkan pertindihan jadual, penajaan yang kecil dan liputan media yang tidak menyeluruh.

Melalui platform Motorsport Malaysia, semua penganjur masih mengekalkan autonomi masing-masing tetapi bekerjasama dalam aspek:

- Perancangan kalendar kebangsaan.
- Penyelarasan sumber dan bajet.
- Strategi penajaan bersama.
- Promosi dan penjenamaan nasional.

Pendekatan ini membolehkan semua acara saling melengkapi dan meningkatkan impak keseluruhan industri.

Penajaan dan Media

Melalui satu jenama nasional, syarikat penaja memperoleh pendedahan yang lebih luas merentasi pelbagai disiplin motorsport, sekali gus meningkatkan pulangan pelaburan (ROI).

Pada masa yang sama, penyelarasan media melalui sekretariat pusat membolehkan semua acara dipromosikan secara lebih profesional menerusi televisyen, media digital dan portal automotif, sekali gus membina identiti Motorsport Malaysia di peringkat serantau.

Manfaat Jangka Panjang

Penyatuan industri ini bukan sahaja meningkatkan promosi dan penajaan, malah membuka ruang kepada pembangunan data nasional motorsport, kerjasama antara kementerian, pembangunan bakat muda serta laluan kerjaya yang lebih jelas dalam bidang automotif dan sukan bermotor.

Penulis turut mencadangkan supaya Motorsport Malaysia diletakkan di bawah entiti neutral seperti Jabatan Perdana Menteri atau Kementerian Kewangan bagi memastikan tadbir urus yang telus, profesional dan bebas daripada kepentingan mana-mana pihak.

Penutup

Motorsport tidak seharusnya dilihat sebagai sukan semata-mata, tetapi sebagai pemangkin kepada ekonomi baharu berasaskan inovasi, teknologi dan kejuruteraan.

Dengan dasar yang tepat, tadbir urus profesional dan kerjasama semua pihak, Malaysia berpotensi membangunkan Motorsport Economy sebagai salah satu sektor strategik yang menyumbang kepada pertumbuhan ekonomi, pembangunan bakat dan imej negara di peringkat antarabangsa.



Ts. Lukas J. Tan

Founder of PDX2026 | CEO of OPERION | AI & Digitalisation Strategist

WHY PENANG IS QUIETLY BECOMING MALAYSIA'S NEXT AI & SEMICONDUCTOR COLLABORATION GATEWAY

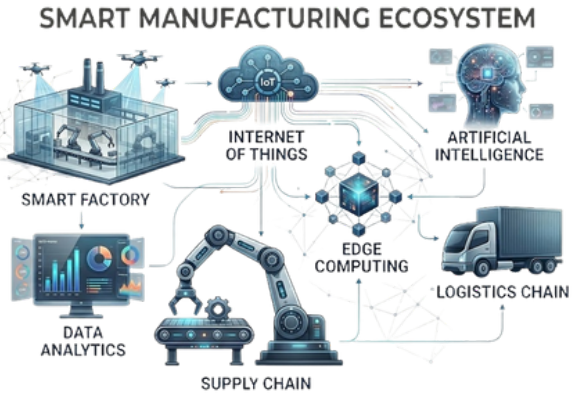
Over the past one year, I have been travelling between meetings, industry discussions, technology sharing sessions, and conversations with business owners from different sectors. One thing I noticed very clearly is that the mood inside the industry is changing. A few years ago, most business conversations still revolved around sales growth, manpower shortages, operational costs, and post-pandemic recovery. Today, however, almost every serious industrial discussion somehow leads back to the same few subjects — AI, semiconductors, automation, smart manufacturing, digital transformation, and future workforce readiness. Even companies that were previously slow in technology adoption are beginning to realise that the industrial landscape is moving into a completely different phase. The pressure is no longer just about surviving competition locally, but about remaining relevant in a fast-moving regional economy.

What makes this transition interesting is that many people still think the AI movement is happening only inside Silicon Valley, China, or among giant global technology corporations. But quietly, Malaysia is also entering this transition in its own way. In recent months, there has been increasing attention towards semiconductor investments, AI infrastructure, industrial automation, and advanced manufacturing capabilities across the country. Within these conversations, Penang naturally appears again and again — not because the state suddenly became important overnight, but because the ecosystem has actually been built steadily over many years through engineering culture, manufacturing supply chains, multinational ecosystems, electronics industries, and technical talent development.

The Shift from Manufacturing to Intelligent Ecosystems

I personally believe the future opportunity for Penang is not about becoming "better" than Kuala Lumpur or competing aggressively against other states. That mindset is too small for the era we are entering. Kuala Lumpur remains extremely important because it is still Malaysia's strongest centre for corporate leadership, investment conversations, startups, technology companies, and strategic decision-making. At the same time, Penang offers something equally powerful — industrial execution and semiconductor ecosystem maturity. When I observe both ecosystems carefully, I do not see competition. I see the possibility for stronger collaboration between technology innovation and industrial implementation.

The companies building AI systems, enterprise platforms, automation technologies, and digital solutions in KL increasingly need access to real industrial environments where technologies can be tested, implemented, and scaled. Meanwhile, manufacturers and industrial players in Penang are searching for clearer digital transformation direction, technology partners, and future-ready solutions. The gap between both ecosystems is actually where many future opportunities may emerge. Malaysia's future competitiveness may depend less on isolated excellence and more on how effectively these ecosystems learn to work together.





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The Real Challenge Is Not Technology

What many businesses are struggling with today is not necessarily technology itself. The real challenge is clarity. I have spoken to SMEs, manufacturers, and even experienced business owners who openly admit they feel overwhelmed by the speed of change happening around them. Every week there is a new AI tool, a new automation trend, or a new prediction about the future workforce. Some companies rush into digitalisation because they fear being left behind, while others delay transformation because they are afraid of making expensive mistakes. In many cases, businesses are not lacking ambition — they are lacking direction. They are trying to understand which technologies truly matter, what kind of workforce skills are needed for the next five years, and how to modernise operations without destabilising existing business operations.

The semiconductor and manufacturing industries themselves are also changing rapidly. In the past, factories mainly focused on production efficiency and operational scaling. Today, the conversation has expanded into predictive maintenance, industrial data visibility, AI-assisted quality control, automation integration, cybersecurity resilience, and smart factory ecosystems. The future factory may no longer be defined only by the machines inside it, but by how intelligently connected the entire operation becomes. This creates new opportunities not only for manufacturers, but also for technology providers, software developers, educators, industrial consultants, and SMEs that are ready to evolve together with the market.

Why Human Readiness Still Matters

Another important reality many people underestimate is the human side of this transition. Whenever AI discussions happen, people often become too focused on technology while forgetting that industries are ultimately built by people. Employees are worried about job relevance, younger generations are entering the workforce with different expectations, and management teams are under increasing pressure to modernise faster. At the same time, cybersecurity risks and digital scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated. Because of this, I believe the future industrial economy cannot only be driven by technology adoption alone. It must also involve leadership readiness, workforce adaptation, digital trust, and stronger awareness across industries.

Without these elements, digital transformation becomes unstable. Technology can improve efficiency, but trust and clarity are what sustain long-term ecosystems. This is also why I believe ecosystem platforms and industrial collaboration spaces will become much more important over the next few years. Businesses today are no longer looking only for exhibitions where people exchange brochures and leave. They are looking for meaningful conversations, practical implementation exposure, partnership opportunities, and ecosystems that help them understand where the future market is heading. In many ways, this is one of the reasons initiatives such as the Penang Digitalisation-AI Conference & Exhibition 2026 (PDX2026) are being developed — not merely as an event, but as a platform to bridge technology conversations with real industrial implementation opportunities between northern region manufacturing ecosystems and broader national industry networks.



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WHY PENANG IS QUIETLY BECOMING MALAYSIA'S NEXT AI & SEMICONDUCTOR COLLABORATION GATEWAY

Malaysia's Next Opportunity

Looking ahead, I do not think the winners of the AI era will simply be the companies with the biggest budgets or the fastest marketing campaigns. The real winners may instead be the ecosystems that learn faster, collaborate better, and adapt earlier than others. Malaysia already possesses many strengths that countries around the region respect — manufacturing capability, engineering talent, semiconductor experience, multilingual workforce, and strong regional positioning. The question now is whether industries across different regions are willing to connect more deeply and move forward together.

Penang is quietly evolving into one of the gateways where AI, semiconductors, manufacturing transformation, industrial collaboration, and future economy discussions are beginning to converge. And perhaps, this convergence may become one of Malaysia's most important opportunities in the years ahead.

About the Author..



MIFA EVENT PLANNER 2026

The following is MIFA's activity plan for 2026 which includes industry development programs, networking, innovation, advocacy, exhibitions, conferences and community programs.

01 January

Strategy & Direction

- Launch of New Website & 2026 Strategic Plan
- Engagement Sessions with MOSTI & Government Agencies

02 February

Networking & Collaboration

- Industry Collaboration Roadshow
- SME–MNC Business Matching
- Ramadhan Gathering
- Launch of MIFA Podcast & Webinar: Industry Trends

03 March

Talent Development

- TVET Industry Talent Forum
- IR4.0 / AI / Automation / Robotics Workshop
- MTVET Collaboration
- Internship Programme

04 April

Innovation & Sustainability

- Industrial Innovation Conference
- ESG Workshop
- MIFA Aidilfitri Celebration 2026
- Visit to R&D Hub @ MIGHT Cyberjaya

05 May

Policy Advocacy

- Industry–Government Dialogue
- Presentation of Programme Proposal Papers to MOSTI / MITI / Ministry of Digital / KPT / MOE

06 June

Internationalisation

- International Networking Mission
- Global Industry Exhibition
- "Global Industry Matching" Programme

07 July

SME Empowerment

- Industry Bootcamp
- Business & Legal Workshop
- Lean Manufacturing Programme
- Mentor–Mentee Programme

08 August

Industry Conference

- International Smart Manufacturing Forum 2026
- Manufacturing & Trade Exposition (MTE 2026)
- MIFA CyberSecurity Showcase 2026

09 September

Green Industry

- Green Industry Forum
- Carbon & Energy Management Programme
- Green Industry Initiative

10 October

Industry Appreciation

- MIFA Emerging Tech Awards 2026 (META 2026)
- Technology Exhibition
- Industry Appreciation Ceremony

11 November

Evaluation & Planning

- Annual Performance Review
- Strategic Workshop 2027
- Members Feedback Session
- 2027 Planning Session

12 December

Community Programme

- CSR Programme
- Robotics & Drone Industry Dialogue
- Year-End Networking Session

Together with MIFA — Building Industry, Empowering the Economy, Shaping the Future.

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

NO	TRAINING TITLE	DAY(S)	PRICE (RM)
1.	JAVA	3	2,500
2.	PYTHON	3	2,500
3.	JSON	3	2,500
4.	NODE-RED	3	2,500
5.	R LANGUAGE	3	2,500
6.	FLUTTER PROGRAMMING	2	2,700
7.	JAVASCRIPT	5	2,600
8.	HTML5	2	1,500
9.	CSS3	2	1,500
10.	TYPESCRIPT	3	1,800
11.	JAVA – Entry level Java Programmer: JAVA SE7 Fundamentals	5	3,400
12.	JAVA – Professional Programmer: JAVA SE7 Fundamentals	5	3,400
13	JAVA - Servlet & Java server Pages (JSP) Developer	5	3,400
14.	PHP – Beginner to Intermediate	5	2,600
15.	PHP – Oriented Programming (OOP)	5	2,600
16.	PHP 7 Programming	5	2,600

ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION TRAININGS

17.	PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC CONTROLLER - SIEMENS	3	3,900
18.	PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC CONTROLLER - MITSUBISHI	3	3,900
19.	PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC CONTROLLER - OMRON	3	3,900
20.	PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC CONTROLLER - PANASONIC	3	3,900
21.	PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC CONTROLLER – SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC	3	3,900
22.	PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC CONTROLLER - ABB	3	3,900
23.	INDUSTRIAL HMI	2	2,600
24.	SCADA SYSTEM	5	6,500
25.	ADVANCE PLC, HMI & SCADA SYSTEM	10	11,700
26.	ROBOTIC AUTOMATION	5	6,500
27.	ROBOT OPERATING SYSTEM (ROS)	3	4,700
28.	ARM CONTROLLER & IOT PROGRAMMING	3	3,500
29.	SCARA ROBOT (SELECTIVE COMPLIANCE ARTICULATED ROBOT ARM)	3	5,800
30.	PLC & IOT (PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC CONTROLLER)	3	3,500
31.	LINEAR ROBOT	2	4,500
32.	AUTONOMOUS MOBILE ROBOT	3	4,500
33.	MOBILE ROBOT DEVELOPMENT	3	5,700

INDUSTRY 4.0 – IOT & IIOT TRAINING

34.	FUNDAMENTAL OF INDUSTRY 4.0 & INTERNET OF THINGS (IOT)	3	3,500
35.	IOT FOR SMART AGRICULTURE	3	3,500
36.	IOT FOR SMART CITIES	3	3,500
37.	LORA-WAN TRAINING	3	3,500
38.	IOT WITH RASPBERRY PI (NODE-RED)	3	3,500
39.	IOT WITH RASPBERRY PI (PYTHON)	3	3,500
40.	IOT WITH RASPBERRY PI & FAVORIOT	3	3,500
41.	BASIC INDUSTRIAL INTERNET OF THINGS (IIOT)	3	3,500
42.	ADVANCE INDUSTRIAL INTERNET OF THINGS (IIOT)	5	4,850
43.	BASIC INDUSTRIAL INTERNET OF THINGS (IIOT) WITH SIMATIC GATEWAY – CERTIFICATION FROM SIEMENS	3	4,600
44.	ADVANCE INDUSTRIAL INTERNET OF THINGS (IIOT) WITH SIMATIC GATEWAY – CERTIFICATION FROM SIEMENS	5	6,500
45.	ARDUINO & IOT PROGRAMMING	3	2,700
46.	RIG : IOT ALL IN ONE	3	4,500

INDUSTRY 4.0 - CLOUD COMPUTING & BIG DATA TRAININGS

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48.	DATA SCIENCE FOUNDATION	3	3,500
49.	BIG DATA ANALTICS WITH MONGODB ATLAS CLOUD	5	4,800
50.	BIG DATA ANALYTICS WITH AWS CLOUD	5	4,800
51.	BIG DATA ANALYTICS WITH HADOOP TECHNOLOGY	5	4,800
52.	DATA MINING AND WEKA SOFTWARE TOOL	3	4,800
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55.	ANDROID PROGRAMMING AUGMENTED REALITY (AR)	5	4,800
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57.	MACHINE LEARNING	3	3,700
58.	CLOUD COMPUTING	3	3,700
59.	BLOCK CHAIN	2	4,500
60.	MYSQL DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR	3	1,800
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62.	DATABASE DESIGN	3	1,800

DATA ANALYSIS

63.	GOOGLE ANALYTICS	3	1,800
64.	BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE (BI)	3	2,600
65.	MICROSOFT EXCEL DASHBOARD	5	2,600
66.	WIRESHARK	2	1,800

ENGINEERING (USING LABVIEW)

67.	FUNDAMENTALS OF G PROGRAMMING USING LABVIEW	3	1,800
68.	BUILDING YOUR OWN DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM	3	1,800
69.	IOT SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT USING LABVIEW	3	1,800

NETWORKING

70.	BASIC NETWORKING CERTIFICATION FOR PLANT CONTROL SYSTEM APPLICATIONS	3	2,550
71.	ADVANCE NETWORKING CERTIFICATION FOR PLANT CONTROL SYSTEM APPLICATIONS	3	4,550

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- EXPERTISE
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IIOT MES
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- OVERALL EQUIPMENT EFFECTIVNESS (OEE)
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INDUSTRIAL IOT CONSULTANT

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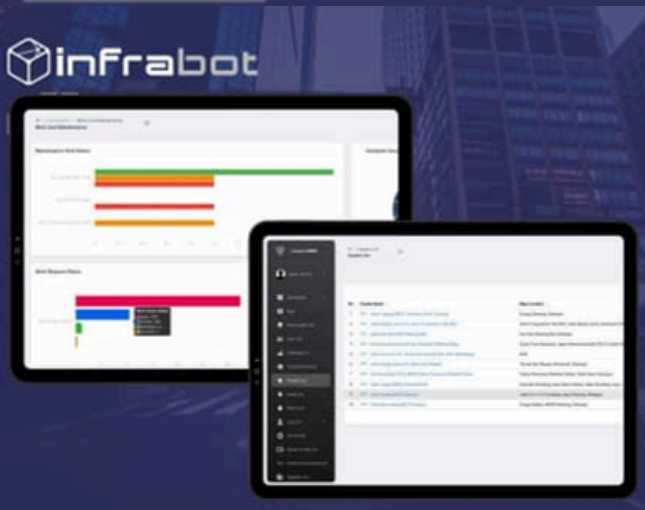
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- INDUSTRIAL IOT USING PLC S7-1200 & SIMATIC IOT 2040 GATEWAY
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Key Highlights:

Integrated	Seamless connection between ERP, machines & systems
Comprehensive	Manage production, scheduling, inventory, quality & maintenance in one platform
Intelligent (AI-powered)	Predictive maintenance, quality control & process optimization
Sustainable	Reduce waste, monitor energy, and support green production

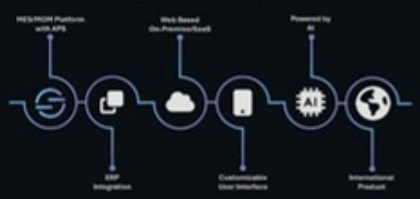
SkyMes Benefit



SkyMes Module



SkyMes Summary



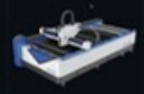
SkyMes Designer



Analysis & EDMS



Production



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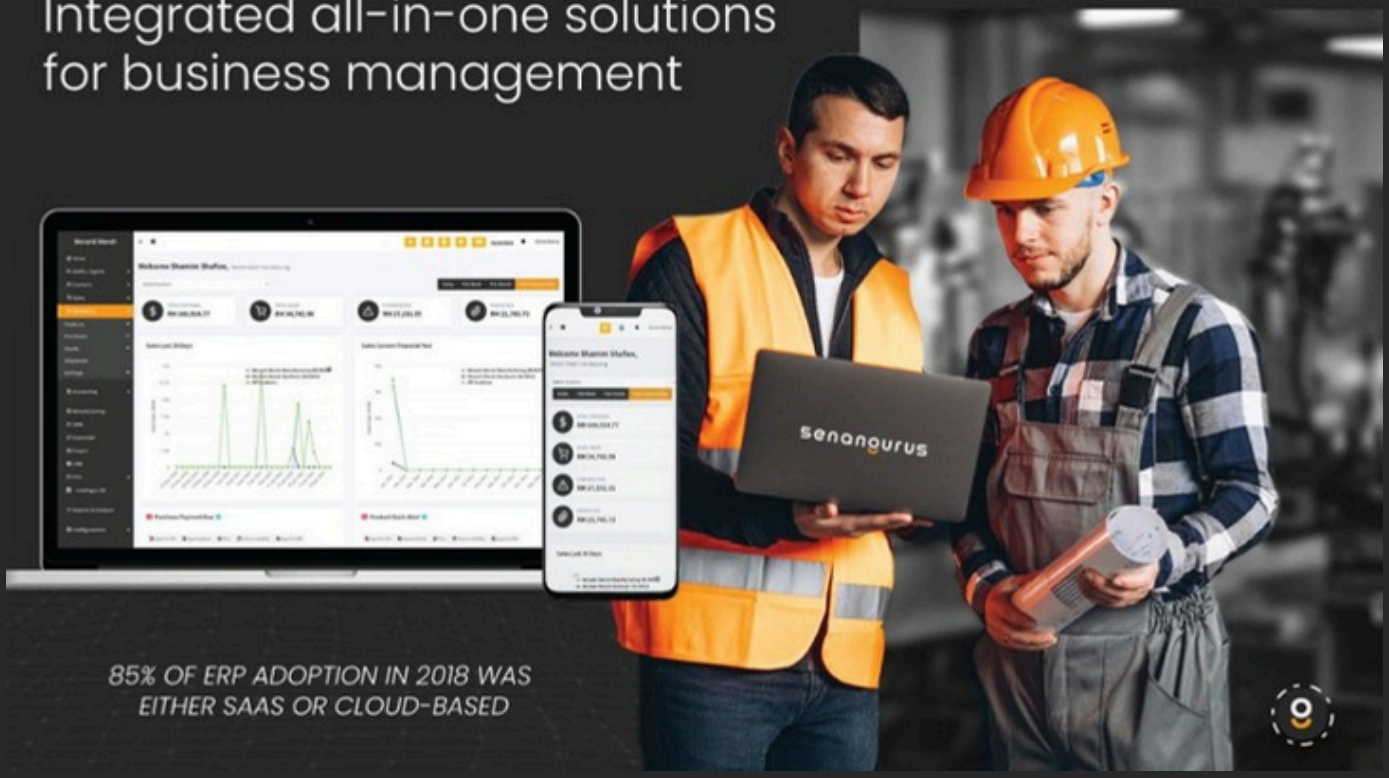
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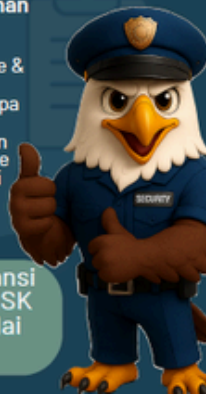
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TALENT SYNERGY SDN BHD

PREVIOUS PROJECT & SOLUTION

Industry 4.0 (IIOT) – IPOS System SMART FACTORY

1 (IPOS DASHBOARD)
URL : ipos.ingresscorp.net/terminal/factory/line



Production Plan, Actual Output, Production variance, Reject Quantity, Downtime, OEE.

IPOS Dashboard running 24/7 in Industrial TV Grade Directly browse from Cloud Server.

IPOS Web can be access anytime, anywhere around the globe. ipos.ingresscorp.net

3 (IPOS WEB)
URL : ipos.ingresscorp.net



1. Management Dashboard
2. Real Time Monitoring System
3. Production Analysis
4. IPOS Settings
5. Daily Production Report



2 (IPOS TERMINAL)
URL : ipos.ingresscorp.net/terminal/factory/line/



1. Production Planning
2. Production Progress
3. Reject
4. Machine & Human Downtime
5. Pending Part
6. Rework Part
7. SAP Report GROK, GRNG, ETT0010, ETT0020

IPOS Terminal running In Industrial Touch Screen PC directly browse from Cloud Server.

Machine Status, Production & System Data

Wireless Technology (Internet VPN)

1. Database
2. OPC
3. System Application (IPOS Terminal, IPOS Web, IPOS Dashboard)

CLOUD SERVER







Talent Synergy Sdn Bhd

CONTACT US:

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2. En. Rosidi 017-614 8116 rosidi@ingresscorp.com.my

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