

ASEAN's Largest Tech Festival - Malaysia Tech Month 2021 Sees Surge of Investment Interest

- *Held in support of MyDIGITAL and in conjunction with MDEC's 25-year anniversary, the month-long festival showcases the quality and opportunity in Malaysia's digital and tech ecosystem*
- *Total of RM163.24 million from five investments secured; more in the pipeline*
- *MTM'21 further solidifies Malaysia as one of the region's most attractive and fast-growing digital investment centre*

CYBERJAYA, 30 AUGUST 2021: Touted as ASEAN'S largest Tech Festival, Malaysia Tech Month 2021 (MTM'21) came to a close today, showcasing the local digital and technology investment opportunities that further strengthens Malaysia as the Heart of Digital ASEAN.

Organised by Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), Malaysia's lead agency in digital transformation, MTM'21 was held in support of the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint (MyDIGITAL) and organised in commemoration of MDEC's 25th Year Anniversary Silver Jubilee. The month long event was rolled out in four themed weeks highlighting MDEC's NADI Digital thrusts – **New Skills, Adoption, Disruptors and Investments.**

"I am confident the Malaysia Tech Month has brought to the global stage, our digital ecosystem leaders and creators, leading-edge companies as well as talents, thus enabling all stakeholders to discover new perspectives on domestic and global trends in artificial intelligence, drone tech, data analytics, fintech and digital workforce.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate MDEC on their 25th year anniversary this month and commend their continuous efforts to push the digital economy needle forward. I look forward to many successful ventures and ideas resulting from this month-long event," said Dato' Sri Haji Mohammad bin Mentek, Secretary-General, Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia.

"MTM'21 is testament to the importance of the digital economy in a radically shifting socio-economic landscape, demonstrating the strength of Malaysia's technology ecosystem – from our local corporations and leaders to innovators and digital talents – that truly sets it as the Heart of Digital ASEAN," said Surina Shukri, CEO of MDEC.

"Even with the pandemic, MTM'21 has proven to be the ideal platform to connect some of the brightest minds and organisations in our digital and technology ecosystem to the region, as well as attract investors in our digital economy, to discuss solutions that will take us ahead and keep us thriving in such challenging times. I am encouraged that MTM'21 will advance us several steps closer to realising the goals set forth by the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint (MyDIGITAL) and the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030."

On the first week of MTM'21, MDEC – together with Malaysia Investment Development Authority (MIDA) – launched the www.heartofdigitalasean.my portal under the auspices of the Digital Investment Office (DIO) to coordinate, assesses, and evaluate digital investments project applications. The portal serves as a single window for all investors in the digital economy.

Following that launch, five successful digital investment deals totalling RM163.24 million in investments and 173 new jobs were secured.

German multinational glass company Schott AG also announced the establishment of its newest international IT competence centre, Schott Asia IT Services (SAITS), which formation is greatly supported by MDEC. The centre currently employs 30 highly skilled IT staff with plans to grow as many as 150 over the next two to five years.

Angkasa-X Group of Companies announced plans to transform Penang into a regional space technology ecosystem hub, which will further foster local innovation and technology transfer while enabling job opportunities throughout the country.

The MyDigitalWorkforce Week was headlined by the Digital Jobs Expo, which offered more than 5,000 job vacancies from over 100 companies. The week also saw the announcement of MDEC's enhanced Digital Skills Training Directory. MDEC and LinkedIn also inked a collaboration to help enhance the digital presence of businesses and develop digital talents in the country

During the Digital Disruptors Week, MDEC announced the opening of the Global Technology Grant (GTG) which provides support for Malaysian tech startups to go global by accelerating technology innovation, research and development, and the creation of market-driven products.

Held from 29 July till 30 August 2021, MTM'21 featured over 40 events totalling 136 sessions and 468 local and international industry speakers and investors, 124 being women speakers. Including 28 satellite events, MTM'21 collectively offered more than 176 hours of content with exclusive insights, knowledge-sharing and discussions.

Throughout the month, MTM'21 attracted participants from across 77 countries, ranging from Southeast Asian nations like Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines to as far away as Europe, United Kingdom and the United States.

"Last year, we closed MTM'20 with the promise of better things to come. Through the support and collaboration of the country's digital economy ecosystem, we succeeded in delivering impact through MTM'21 and the outcomes are very encouraging. Most importantly, we managed to accomplish the goal to democratise access to high quality digital content, impart tech knowledge, and share innovative ideas to drive the objectives of MyDIGITAL for Malaysia," concluded Surina.

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About Malaysia Tech Month 2021

Malaysia Tech Month 2021 (MTM 2021) is a virtual, month-long curation of electrifying digital and technology keynotes, workshops, discussion panels and business-matching sessions. It will feature a distinguished group of local and international industry speakers and investors to share their expert thoughts and experiences in the 4IR-driven digital economy.

MTM 2021 will see exciting programmes that will allow the spotlight to be shone upon digital ecosystem leaders and creators, leading-edge companies as well as talents, enabling all stakeholders to discover new perspectives on domestic and global trends in artificial intelligence, drone tech, data analytics, fintech and digital workforce.

Drawing out new tech conversations from public sector and enterprise decision makers, entrepreneurial and academic circles, MTM 2021 aims to drive MDEC's aspirations in establishing Malaysia as the Heart of Digital ASEAN and further reinforce Malaysia's position as the first-mover for the rise of the digital economy in the present and post-pandemic era.

About Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC)

Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) is the agency under the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia leading the digital transformation of the economy for 25 years. We aim to enable a nation that is deeply integrated with technology, providing equitable digital opportunities to society, people and businesses, in line with the Malaysia 5.0 agenda.

To achieve this, MDEC will execute on its **NADI** (Nadi Digital) framework, based on the four thrusts: **N**ew skills, **A**doption, **D**isruptors and **I**nterests. NADI will drive our core programmes for the rakyat, industry and investors. MDEC will continue to lead Malaysia's digital economy forward towards becoming a globally competitive digital nation, anchored on innovation, sustainability and shared prosperity, firmly establishing Malaysia as the Heart of Digital ASEAN.

#MyMDEC #NadiDigital #SayaDigital #HeartofDigitalASEAN #Malaysia5.0

To find out more about MDEC's Digital Economy initiatives, please visit us at www.mdec.my or follow us on: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MyMDEC/> Twitter: @mymdec

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