Premier Digital Tech Institutions Adds Three New Local Universities To Its Lineup

- HELP University, Universiti Islam Antarabangsa and Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman expands Premier Digital Tech Institutions lineup to 16 institutions
- Tech industry shows strong support for Premier Digital Tech Institutions initiative
- High industry demand for Premier Digital Tech Institutions graduates drives more top-quality student enrollments in these institutions

CYBERJAYA, 17 JUNE 2019 – Minister of Education Malaysia, YB Dr. Maszlee Malik, today announced three new local universities (HELP University, Universiti Islam Antarabangsa and Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman) obtaining the Premier Digital Tech Institutions recognition, expanding the current lineup to a total of 16 institutions.

The Premier Digital Tech Institutions initiative was jointly developed by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia and Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) in 2017, to produce top talents and future leaders not only in digital tech, but other industries such as manufacturing and agriculture. In the same year, eight universities and five polytechnics were awarded the recognition of Premier Digital Tech Universities and Premier Digital Polytechnics respectively, placing them as top institutions of higher learnings that can deliver first-class theoretical and practical training.

The Premier Digital Tech Institutions provide an optimum ecosystem to prepare graduates to meet industry expectations. Institutions applying for Premier Digital Tech Institutions recognition undergo a range of meticulous assessment processes to ensure they provide industry relevant tech education and facilities. Upon receiving the recognition, these institutions act as benchmarks for others and serve as an easily identifiable badge of quality for aspiring digital tech students.

"The Premier Digital Tech Institutions initiative will ensure Malaysians will be ready in the fields of Data Analytics, AI, Robotics and Digital Marketing," said *YB Dr. Maszlee Malik, Minister of Education Malaysia.* "Talent is key for Malaysia to succeed in the 4th

Industrial Revolution. As the world moves rapidly from IR4.0 to now even discussing IR5.0 - it is critical that we prepare skilled local talents for future jobs."

"I want to personally thank all of our industry partners for actively supporting the Ministry of Education and MDEC's joint efforts to date. Heartiest congratulations to the new universities joining the prestigious line-up of institutions. I hope that this will inspire other institutions throughout Malaysia to be a part of this initiative."

The Premier Digital Tech Institutions initiative is strongly supported by the industry, featuring eight strategic industry partners at the announcement, namely Amazon Web Services, CISCO, Intel, JobStreet, Microsoft, Oracle Academy, RunCloud and SAS. These strategic partners will work closely with the 16 Premier Digital Tech Institutions to provide free cloud credits, training modules, certification programmes, training, mentoring and employment tools. This will enable its students to acquire key knowledge and skills relevant to the industry directly from leading technology companies, ensuring that they will be industry-ready upon graduation.

"MDEC is a strong proponent of Public-Private Partnerships and this Premier Digital Tech Institutions initiative is a great example how such alliances can powerfully impact the growth of Malaysia's digital economy," said *Surina Shukri, Chief Executive Officer of MDEC*.

"In 2018, Premier Digital Tech Institutions graduates recorded a 95 percent employability rate, earning a salary 1.5 times higher than the national average. It is clear that we are able to better prepare our talents by bringing together the best of educational institutions and industry players. Today's announcement of the expanded Premier Digital Tech Institutions lineup together with strong support from leading players in the industry shows that Malaysia is on the right path to futureproof its talents, creating leaders and innovators that will drive global digital economies of the future."

ABOUT MALAYSIA DIGITAL ECONOMY CORPORATION (MDEC)

Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) is the government agency under the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia entrusted to lead the nation's digital economy forward.

MDEC's mandate includes driving digital adoption, development of industry ready tech talents, digital economy policies and global champions.

To future proof Malaysia for the digital age, MDEC will leverage its proven track record, industry credibility and experienced leadership to connect, catalyse and commercialise digital initiatives to advance a thriving and sustainable digital economy placing diversity and inclusivity at its core.

#LetsBuildTogether #DigitalMalaysiaForward

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For media enquiries, please contact:

Sharifah Syazreen Syed Agail

Senior Executive, Communications

Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC)

Tel: 03-8314 1839 **Email:** syazreen.syed@mdec.com.my

Gary Khoo

Senior Executive, Reputation Technology

Edelman Malaysia

Tel: 012-932 9280 **Email:** gary.khoo@edelman.com