



PRESS RELEASE

SUPPORT POURS IN FOR THE MyDIGITAL INITIATIVE AND NATIONAL 4IR POLICY

WASHINGTON DC USA, 12 May 2022 – The Malaysian Government’s aspiration to transform Malaysia into a digitally enabled and technology-driven high-income nation by 2030 is getting the attention and support of American multinational companies.

During a meet and greet session hosted by the Malaysian Embassy in Washington DC with Malaysian Prime Minister YAB Dato’ Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, four major American tech companies namely: Microsoft Corporation (Microsoft), Intel Corporation (Intel), Cisco Systems Inc. (Cisco) and Micron Technologies Inc. (Micron), handed over letters of intent (LOI) to the Malaysian Government expressing support and intention to partner with Malaysian institutions to realise the ambitions stated in the Malaysian Digital Economy Blueprint (MDEB) and the National 4IR Policy. The letters of intent were handed over to Mr. Fabian Bigar, Chief Executive Officer of MyDIGITAL Corporation and witnessed by YAB Dato’ Sri Ismail Sabri and Minister of International Trade and Industry YB Dato’ Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali during the event.

Microsoft through its operations in Malaysia aims to partner with MyDIGITAL Corporation and other relevant agencies to empower digital transformation for Malaysia’s inclusive and sustainable development in areas that include the digital transformation of the public sector. This follows Microsoft’s Bersama Malaysia initiative announced last year, which include the establishment of its first data centre region in Malaysia and skilling of one million Malaysians by the end of 2023. Microsoft’s investment in Malaysia is expected to generate up to USD 4.6 billion in new revenues over the next four years. The investment was also projected to add

19,070 new jobs over four years, directly and indirectly, of which 4,500 will be skilled IT jobs. Microsoft has also skilled more than 430,000 Malaysians for the digital economy since 2021 through programmes such as Microsoft's MS Learn, Student Ambassador Program and STEM curriculum in schools, as well as through partnerships with Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp), Social Security Organisation (SOCSSO), Talent Corporation Malaysia (TalentCorp Malaysia), along with other businesses and non-Governmental organisations (NGOs).

Intel, with operations in Malaysia since 1972, had announced new investments last year amounting to a total over USD 7 billion for manufacturing facilities in Kulim High Tech Park in Kedah and Bayan Lepas in Penang. This investment is expected to create a total of 4,500 permanent jobs for Malaysians. Intel aims to cooperate with the Malaysian government to expand digital readiness and tech education to equip the citizens with 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) knowledge and skill sets needed to build a robust talent pipeline and dynamic workforce. They also seek to collaborate with the relevant agencies and the private sector in Malaysia to accelerate adoption of 5G and Emerging Technologies to leapfrog Malaysia's capabilities for high-tech and advanced manufacturing. In addition, Intel will further provide support for Malaysia to digitalise the trade ecosystem to elevate the ease of doing business in Malaysia and strengthen the supply chain resilience.

Meanwhile, Cisco has had its presence in Malaysia since 1995 through its offices in Kuala Lumpur and Penang. They have established collaborative partnerships with 122 education institutions in Malaysia via the Cisco Networking Academy, offering IT skills and career development programs. The efforts have resulted in trainings of over 112,000 students to date. Cisco seeks to expand its Country Digital Acceleration (CDA) Program for Malaysia which covers four pillars: Digital Transformation in Public Sector, Digital Transformation in Industry, Digital Transformation in Small Medium Business and Digital Transformation in Service Provider. To realise this, Cisco will be working with local partners and institutions to help accelerate Malaysia's digital transformation agenda, in line with the MDEB and the National 4IR Policy. The CDA program is the latest milestone in Cisco's longstanding and continued commitment to Malaysia.

Micron operates three manufacturing sites in Malaysia: one in Muar, Johor and two in Batu Kawan, Penang that gives focus on memory/storage semiconductor assembly and test operations that are critical to support market drivers such as Artificial Intelligence, 5G, Automotive, Remote Learning/Working and e-Commerce. Currently, Micron has a team of 4,000 members in Malaysia and plans to generate another 2,000 jobs through its expansion plan in the near term to propel leading-edge capabilities in Malaysia. Micron also intends to scale up their talent development initiative through the New College Graduate Program 2.0 (NCG 2.0) for Malaysian postgraduate engineering students from local and overseas universities. The comprehensive industrial training is for 12 months and will cover high-demand areas such as smart manufacturing, advanced packaging/process engineering, test engineering/development solution and operations excellence.

MyDIGITAL is a national initiative that symbolises the Malaysian Government's aspiration to transform Malaysia into a digitally enabled and technology-driven high-income nation and a regional lead in digital economy. The aspirations are encoded into the MDEB, while the National 4IR Policy is a broad, overarching national policy that drives coherence in transforming the socioeconomic development of the country through ethical use of 4IR technologies. Both the MDEB and the National 4IR Policy support national development policies such as the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 and the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP). MyDIGITAL Corporation is a government agency set up under Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister's Department to oversee the implementation of the MDEB and the National 4IR Policy.

As Malaysia gears up to transition to the endemic phase, the country is set to recover and revitalise economic activities especially boosting digital economy. The support from the multinationals is a testament to the global investors' confidence in Malaysia as the preferred destination to do business, as well as the capability and readiness of the country as a whole to support high profile business ventures and activities.

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