

Putting Malaysia on the digital map



STARPICKS

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Malaysia Tech Month 2021 set to establish Malaysia as the Heart of Digital Asean

TAKING Malaysia forward into the digital era and to establish a strong presence on the digital map across the globe, the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), as Malaysia's lead agency in digital transformation, presents Malaysia Tech Month 2021 (MTM'21) – which is geared toward promoting investments to drive the digital economy.



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Returning in its second year, MTM'21 features a stellar line up of internationally renowned speakers, including:

- Theoretical physicist, bestselling author, acclaimed public speaker, renowned futurist and populariser of science Prof Dr Michio Kaku
- Renault Group chief scientific officer and co-creator of Apple Siri Dr Luc Julia
- Futurist and author Michael Tchong
- Digital pioneer and AI scientist UK Inma Martinez
- First former chief information officer of the Estonian government Taavi Kotka
- Deloitte technical director and Privacy and Women Leading in AI Network UK co-founder Ivana Bartoletti.

This line up is enhanced by Malaysia's own tech titans (or digital doyens) – from the inimitable Air Asia Group chief executive officer Tan Sri Tony Fernandes, to Carsome co-founder and group chief executive officer Eric Cheng, Malaysia's first unicorn, and other distinguished speakers.

Taking place from now till Aug 30, MTM'21 will feature over 40 events and more than 300 local and international industry speakers and investors.

The MTM'21 is aligned to MDEC's recently-unveiled 'Digital Investments Future5' (DIF5) Strategy - a five-year plan focusing on five key thrusts aimed at attracting investments and advancing Malaysia's digital economy in line with the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint (MyDIGITAL). The five-year initiative, which will run from 2021 to 2025 following the 12th Malaysia Plan, aims to secure high-quality digital investments as it seeks to unlock new drivers of growth in the digital economy.

Through varied and diverse keynotes, workshops, discussion panels and matching sessions, these industry leaders and tech innovators will be sharing their thoughts and experiences on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), current and future trends in technology, and the digital economy as a whole.

MTM'21 kicked off with a two-day anchor event on July 29 headlined by Prof Dr Michio Kaku on the topic of the Five Big Ideas That Will Shape Our Future.

As the curtain raiser, the anchor event highlighted the journey of Malaysia as the original start up in the region with the launch of MSC Malaysia in 1996 to being the launch bed of unicorns.



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Some notable panellists that kick-started the event in the first week were Golden Gate Ventures founding partner Jeffrey Paine who spoke on Asia Digital Outlook – Venture Capital Predictions and Dynamics That Drive Them, and an interesting topic on The New Age of Innovation Centres: Realising Potential Return on Investment presented by Technology Park Malaysia chief executive officer Dzuleira Abu Bakar.



Panel discussions were held by Yeoh and Sai.

Meanwhile, Digital Penang chief executive officer Tony Yeoh held a panel discussion on Enabling Cities to Become Global Tech Hub for Emerging Technologies while Trovicor Technology Sdn Bhd Malaysia managing director Sai Sidharth discussed Cybersecurity Investment Footprint in Malaysia.

MTM'21 also kicked off the celebration of MDEC's 25th anniversary, which began with a special chat on the agency's journey since its 1996 inception featuring past MDEC executives and partners.

The content will be rolled out in four themed weeks encapsulating MDEC's NADI digital pillars – new skills, adoption, disruptors and investments.

MTM'21 is Malaysia's marquee investment promotion platform bringing together industry, government and investors to collaborate and leverage on each other's strengths and offerings.

It serves to connect Malaysian start-ups and scale-ups to international investors, in addition to providing business and talent matching and investment opportunities – offering a platform for growth in this area.

"This year marks an important milestone for MDEC as we celebrate our 25th anniversary," said MDEC chief executive officer Surina Shukri.

"In many ways, MTM'21 is the celebration of our progress and achievements since our founding in 1996 to realise the dream of the Multimedia Super Corridor.

"There's no better way to celebrate our silver jubilee than to do what we do best – driving innovation and empowering the people towards digital transformation.

"Through MTM'21, investors will have the perfect platform to explore business opportunities, gain valuable market access and access digital talents within the local tech industry as well to seek more effective collaborations to improve innovations. It is also the perfect opportunity for us to showcase Malaysia's strength at a regional and global stage, of Malaysia's viability as the digital investment hub of choice as part of our DIF5 strategy.

"The event also gives us the opportunity to broaden our minds and engage in conversations that ultimately drives us towards enabling a nation that is deeply integrated with technology and with equitable digital opportunities to the people and businesses – Malaysia 5.0," said Surina.