



**KEMENTERIAN
PERDAGANGAN ANTARABANGSA DAN INDUSTRI**

LAUNCHING SPEECH

YBHG. DATO' LOKMAN HAKIM ALI

SECRETARY GENERAL

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY

LAUNCH OF

MYRESKILL IoT PROGRAMME

2 SEPTEMBER 2021 (THURSDAY)

10:00 A.M.

YANG BERBAHAGIA DATO' ABDUL LATIF HAJI ABU SEMAN

Director General of Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC);

YANG BERBAHAGIA DATO' SERI WONG SIEW HAI

Champion of Electrical & Electronics Productivity Nexus (EEPN) and President of Malaysia Semiconductor Industry Association (MSIA);

Heads of Government Departments and Agencies;

Captains of Industries;

Members of Media;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and a very good morning.

1. A very warm welcome and thank you for joining us today. It is an honour and privilege for me to be part of today's event to launch MyReskill IoT Programme, under the theme "Boosting Productivity through Digitalisation".
2. Since 1980, global productivity growth has gone through a series of surges and declines. In all cases, the declines in productivity growth have coincided with global recessions and slowdowns. COVID-19 pandemic is the latest jolt that has impacted Malaysia's economic performance negatively. The

contraction of Malaysia's labour productivity by -5.5 percent in 2020 was the first since the 2009 global financial crisis and the lowest in ten years.

3. One bright spot is that COVID-19 has accelerated investment in digital technologies that may translate into rapid productivity growth. Before the pandemic, a paradigm shift towards digitalisation of the economy was already underway. Current events have accelerated the paradigm, as evidenced in a World Bank report by increase in spending towards digital business, with nearly 56 percent of total purchases made by Malaysian firms.
4. Technology-related indicators in World Competitiveness Yearbook 2021, such as digital transformation in companies and use of digital tools and technologies, also start to indicate a promising performance in 2021 after exhibiting a downward trend from 2017 to 2020. Nevertheless, while this shows that several reform initiatives are working, there is still more to be done to further accelerate technological adoption among firms to enhance productivity.
5. Leveraging technological advances is expected to contribute to 30 percent uplift in productivity across all sectors. Therefore, it is crucial for the government to design and implement effective policy interventions to support this transformation. The introduction of Industry4WRD policy by MITI complemented by Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint (MyDigital) and National Policy on the Fourth Industrial

Revolution are expected to catalyse economic recovery through higher application and adoption of digital technology.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. Technological adoption requires more high-skilled talent to be in the labour market. Therefore, the appropriate policy response is to encourage and support the upskilling & reskilling of the current workforce. We need to ensure that these workers are equipped with skills to complement new technologies rather than be replaced by them.
7. For this reason, I would like to congratulate MPC, a government agency under MITI, for the prompt response to facilitate the industries especially SMEs in accelerating the digital transformation. The establishment of MyReskill IoT Programme is vital for existing workers to remain relevant in the labour market and boosting productivity at enterprise, sectoral and national levels. This is also an opportunity to transform Malaysia into a digitally enabled and productivity-driven high-income nation.
8. On that note, ladies and gentlemen, I take great pleasure to officiate and launch the MyReskill IoT Programme.

Thank you.