



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **MALAYSIA PROVES ITS CAPABILITIES IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY ON THE GLOBAL STAGE**

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**PUTRAJAYA, 19 JUNE 2024** – Malaysia has proven its capability and credibility in the field of Information and Communication Technology on the global stage through the confirmation of its status as a Full Signatory of the Seoul Accord. During the Seoul Accord Annual General Meeting held in India recently, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) through the Malaysia Board of Technologists (MBOT) was announced as a Full Signatory of the Seoul Accord.

The Seoul Accord is a multi-lateral agreement among bodies responsible for accrediting degree programs of computing and information technology-related at the academic level. At present, Australia, Canada, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and the United States are full signatory countries of the Seoul Accord.

In line with the country's impressive digital investment landscape, the digital economy in Malaysia, which contributed 23.2 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2021, is projected to increase to 25.5 per cent by 2025. Among the approved digital investments are in the data centre, cloud computing, data hosting, big data analytics, and artificial intelligence sectors which are expected to create job opportunities for 36,553 locals. It is supported by the presence of tech giants such as Google which will invest US\$2 billion (RM9.4 billion) in Malaysia, including the development of Google's first data centre in Malaysia and the Google Cloud Region which will strengthen local artificial intelligence (AI) literacy.

The recognition of the Seoul Accord is expected to boost the confidence of investors, especially in the high-tech sector, to expand their operations in Malaysia as the local talent that is now recognised is on par and meets international standards.

In order to achieve this recognition, MBOT has worked hard for a period of five years starting in 2019 as a provisional signatory of the Seoul Accord until becoming a full signatory today. During the process, MBOT has been guided by the Australian Computer Society (ACS), Australia, which acts as a mentor.

The process to obtain recognition as a full signatory involves various evaluation sessions. The audit visits have been carried out to Universiti Teknologi MARA Shah Alam for the Bachelor of Computer Science (Honours) programme and Multimedia University for the Bachelor of Computer Science (Hons) and Bachelor of Information Technology (Hons) programmes in Information Systems. MBOT has received positive feedback from the evaluation panel, especially regarding the equivalence of MBOT's accreditation standards with the Seoul Accord. The panels involved were from the

Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), the Institute of Engineering Education Taiwan (IEET), and the British Computer Society (BCS).

Through its status as a Full Signatory of the Seoul Accord, degree programs, especially in three (3) fields accredited by MBOT, namely Information and Communication Technology, Cyber Security Technology, and Creative Art and Multimedia Technology, are equivalent to the international standards set by the Seoul Accord.

Therefore, for local graduates to achieve international recognition, all public and private higher education institutions offering bachelor's degree programs in this field must obtain accreditation from MBOT. At the same time, it will improve the prospects and careers of graduates globally.

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Malaysia Board of Technologists (MBOT) is a professional body that provides professional recognition to Technologists and Technicians in the field technology and technical. MBOT was established under the Technology and Technicians Act 2015 [Act 768] to recognize, promote and develop the profession of technologist and technician as professionals.

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