

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

TALENT DEVELOPMENT, KEY TO MALAYSIA'S VENTURE INTO INDUSTRY 4.0

25 April 2017, Penang – “Malaysia has a strong manufacturing base. However, to stay competitive, our companies have no choice but to embrace intelligent production and include more Industry 4.0 elements into their operations. While we emphasise on the need to adopt new technologies and processes, the success of any industry relies heavily on human capital. We recognise the shortfalls in this area and are looking seriously into talent development. We want to ensure that our workers have the necessary skills and competencies to advance the country’s economic transformation agenda” said YB Dato’ Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI) at the Officiating Ceremony of the Penang Skills Development Centre’s (PSDC) Precision Machining & Industry 4.0 Centre of Excellence and Dialogue today.

YB Dato’ Seri Mustapa highlighted that the Government provides many incentives to encourage the transformation of the manufacturing sector. Companies in Malaysia are urged to be more responsive, more innovative and adapt to new ways of doing things. The participation and support of stakeholders such as PSDC and the industry players is crucial towards achieving the goal.

“Today, I am very happy to list PSDC as part of Malaysia’s transformation efforts, particularly in addressing the lack of knowledge and understanding on the new technologies, heavy cost of equipment investment and talent shortage. I would like to commend PSDC for taking up the challenge in preparing industries to adopt new technologies through the provision of proper training and shared services to the industry,” the Minister added.

“MITI, through MIDA recognises PSDC’s role and contribution, and is proud to support the expansion through awarding a matching grant of RM4.85 million for PSDC to purchase new equipment for their workshop upgrade. We believe that this investment is both fundamental and crucial specifically to support the growth of the E&E, medical devices and aerospace ecosystems,” said YB Dato’ Sri Mustapa.

Also present was Dato’ Azman Mahmud, Chief Executive Officer of the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) and the Chairman of the PSDC Management Council, Dr. Juergen Schloesser.

During his welcoming remarks, Dr. Schloesser said, “The PSDC Precision Machining Workshop was first set up in November 1991 in response to the industry’s need for more CNC craftsmen, machinists, tool and die makers, and production technologists. Over the years, we were able to constantly upgrade our machines, thanks to the generosity and assistance from the Industry as well as capital grants from the Federal Government. Through the respective Malaysia Plans, more than RM20 million has been channeled to support PSDC’s investment in Applied Engineering machines and equipment. As a result, we were able to produce more than 5,000 machinists through our Applied Engineering courses.”

“In 2016, the PSDC embarked on its quest to be the Centre of Excellence for Industry 4.0 in Penang and Malaysia. Our key role is to bring understanding on this subject and lead the charge in preparing industries to adopt new technologies by providing the right platform for learning, training and development. Towards that objective, we started work on upgrading our labs, including the Precision Machining Workshop. With the support from MIDA, we were able to purchase 11 new machines and equipment, including the Mazak INTEGREX i-Series Multi-Tasking CNC Turn Mill 9 Axis machine worth RM1.7 million. This will enable us to expand our training capabilities to further support the requirements of the industry,” he added.

In conjunction with the officiating ceremony was a Scholarship and Donation Presentation Ceremony by the industry partners of PSDC. The nine companies donated and contributed scholarships and equipment with a total worth of more than RM2.6 million to PSDC. The companies were Inari Amertron, UWC Holdings, NI Malaysia, Sophic Automation, TechSource Systems, Mitutoyo (M), JHT Design Co Ltd, as well as DP Technology, USA and Spring Technologies, France which were represented by WCS Solutions.

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ABOUT MIDA

MIDA is the government's principal promotion agency under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to oversee and drive investments into the manufacturing and services sectors in Malaysia. Starting operations in 1967 with a relatively small set up of 37 staff, MIDA has grown to become a strong and dynamic organisation of over 700 employees. Headquartered in Kuala Lumpur Sentral, MIDA today has 12 regional and 23 overseas offices. This year as the organisation celebrates its 50th anniversary, MIDA continues to be the strategic partner to businesses in seizing the opportunities arising from the technology revolution of this era.

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