



MEDIA RELEASE

COLLABORATION WITH GOOGLE AND GRAB TO ENHANCE LOCAL SME PLAYERS

In line with the World Economic Forum 2019 theme, **“Globalization 4.0: Shaping a Global Architecture in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution”**, YB Datuk Darell Leiking, Minister of International Trade and Industry met with a few prominent technology companies in Davos such as Google and GRAB.

According to Mr. Karan Bhatia, Vice President, Global Public Policy and Government Relations, Google Inc. emphasised that the company continued to view Malaysia as an important investment destination due to its market potential and user base. Malaysia thanked Google for its commitment to Malaysia and its efforts to grow the region's digital economy. One significant programme that Google will undertake is the launching of “Grow with Google” programme in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah on 12 April 2019. The programme will consist of digital skills training to help small business owners, entrepreneurs, and individuals grow their skills and businesses in Sabah. Malaysia further proposed that Google continue to enhance SMEs and MSMEs awareness on digital skills in other states in Malaysia.

Google shared that artificial intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IOT) were the most pronounced technologies sought after by governments and business. However, Google highlighted that barriers put in place by Governments may hinder collaboration on AI and IOT in particular taxation and financial regulation policies.

YB Datuk Darell Leiking also met with Mr. Anthony Tan, CEO and Founder of **GRAB**. **The aim was to follow up on the meeting held in August 2018 to finalise GRAB’s investment plans in Malaysia. GRAB views that the conducive environment created by the new government is an opportunity to collaborate and contribute towards nation building in Malaysia.**

YB Minister invited both Google and GRAB to collaborate with the Government during Malaysia’s Chairmanship of APEC in 2020. In addition, Malaysia further proposed for Google to contribute in terms of utilising the AI technology and digitalisation during the hosting of the event.

**Ministry of International Trade and Industry
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
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MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY

About MITI:

MITI is the key driver in making Malaysia the preferred destination for quality investments and enhancing the nation's rising status as a globally competitive trading nation. Its objectives and roles are oriented towards ensuring Malaysia's rapid economic development and help achieve the country's stated goal of becoming a developed nation by 2020.

Media enquiries

**Ministry of International Trade & Industry
Strategic Communications Unit**

Tel +603 6200 0083

Fax +603 6206 4293

E-mail allpegkomunikasikorporat@miti.gov.my