

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **HOME GROWN TECH CHAMPIONS TO 'PAY IT FORWARD'**

- *MDEC calls on the alumni of successful MDEC award recipients to mentor and support the future generation of tech companies through the 'Pay it Forward' programme.*
- *More collaboration needed between corporations, government and private sector to create more successful tech companies.*

**KUALA LUMPUR, 7 AUGUST 2019** –The alumni of successful Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) award recipients gathered together last Friday at the launch of the 'Pay it Forward' initiative by MDEC to celebrate their achievement as homegrown tech champions and sharing of experience with others in the tech and digital industry in Malaysia.

Since 1998, MDEC has been providing support to local companies through various programmes and initiatives such as the Global Acceleration Innovation Network (GAIN).

The 'Pay It Forward' initiative invites local companies who have benefitted from the early support provided by MDEC to now 'give back' to the local community of startups by offering support and mentorship in four areas: enterprises, data analytics & AI, talent and sharing economy. These MDEC's alumni journey to success will serve as valuable resource and inspiration to upcoming digital entrepreneurs by assisting them to navigate through potential pitfalls and also opportunities to leverage on for sustainable growth and commercial success.

Some of the successful local companies that attended and volunteered to contribute their expertise and mentorship to develop the next generation of tech champions are:

- Jobstreet – crossed RM1 bil market cap in 2013 and was subsequently acquired by Seek Australia for RM1.89 billion in 2014
- Maestro Planning Solutions (Maestro) who launched QuickSchools for the US market back in 2008 and has setup its headquarters in Silicon Valley. QuickSchools.com is an online school management system that is optimally designed for private k12 schools



all over the world. It now proudly powers over 500 schools in over 30 countries, helping thousands of teachers each day.

- Vitrox a Penang based company made it to Forbes Asia's 200 Best Under a Billion list.
- The animated movie *Upin Ipin Keris Siamiang Tunggal* by Les' Copaque Production surpassed Disney Pixar's *Incredibles 2* as the biggest animated movie in Malaysia with collection RM 25 Mil box office since it released in March 2019.
- In 2016, *Boboiboy the Movie* by Animonsta Sdn Bhd has collected at the box office the value of RM 20 Million including the screening in Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei and Korea. The movie also won the Best Animated Feature Film for the 28th Malaysia Film Festival. *Boboiboy the Movie 2* is screening in Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei and Vietnam this week.
- *No Straight Roads* by Metronomik have won several game awards such as Excellence In Sound Design Award at BitSummit 7 Spirits, Best Indie Project award at Unreal Open Day in Shanghai and Grand Jury Award in the SEA Game Awards.

As the number of successful companies grow, MDEC will lead the push forward in leading Malaysia's Digital Economy forward. However, Surina Shukri, Chief Executive Officer of MDEC mentioned that it would be a collaborative effort to create more successful Malaysian tech companies. She called upon previous grant recipients to teach the next generation of tech companies and mentor them to become global companies in the future.

Commenting on the power of collaboration and sharing, Surina said: "I hope that all the pioneering Pay It Forward alumni can help to contribute towards developing the nation's digital economy as we need the private sector to unite together."

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## **ABOUT MALAYSIA DIGITAL ECONOMY CORPORATION (MDEC)**

Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) is the government agency under the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia entrusted to lead the nation's digital economy forward.

MDEC's mandate includes driving digital adoption, development of industry ready tech talents, digital economy policies and global champions.

To future proof Malaysia for the digital age, MDEC will leverage its proven track record, industry credibility and experienced leadership to connect,



catalyse and commercialise digital initiatives to advance a thriving and sustainable digital economy placing diversity and inclusivity at its core.

#LetsBuildTogether #DigitalMalaysiaForward

To find out more about MDEC's Digital Economy initiatives, please visit [www.mdec.my](http://www.mdec.my) or follow us on:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MyMDEC/>

Twitter: @mymdec

For further media enquiries, please contact:

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Accompanying photos:



Surina Shukri, CEO of MDEC, addressing a room full of alumni of successful MDEC award recipients. She highlighted that their mentorship and support to the future generation of tech companies is imperative in continuing the local industry's momentum to soar in the global arena.



Among the alumni that attended the session were Malaysia's renowned content creators.

From left:

- 1) Desmond Ngai – Senior Vice President, WebTV Asia;
- 2) Hasnul Hadi – Vice President, MDEC;
- 3) Fred Chong – CEO, WebTV Asia;
- 4) Edmund Chan – Managing Director, Animasia Studio;
- 5) Juhaidah Joemin – Managing Director/Executive Producer, Giggle Garage Sdn Bhd;
- 6) Hairul Faizal Izwan – Executive Producer, Digital Durian;
- 7) Surina Shukri – Chief Executive Officer (CEO), MDEC;
- 8) Mohd Faiz Mohd Hanafiah – Operations Director of Wau Animation Sdn Bhd;
- 9) Diani Fawzi – Director Corporate Management of Animosta Studios Sdn Bhd;
- 10) Janice Lim – Senior Manager, MDEC;
- 11) Nizam Razak – Founder, Animonsta Studios;
- 12) Sinan Ismail – CEO, Digital Durian.





Industry luminaries such as Ganesh Bangah – Chairman of PIKOM & Commerce.Asia (left) and CC Puan – Group MD & CEO of Green Packet (right) were also present to contribute their wisdom.