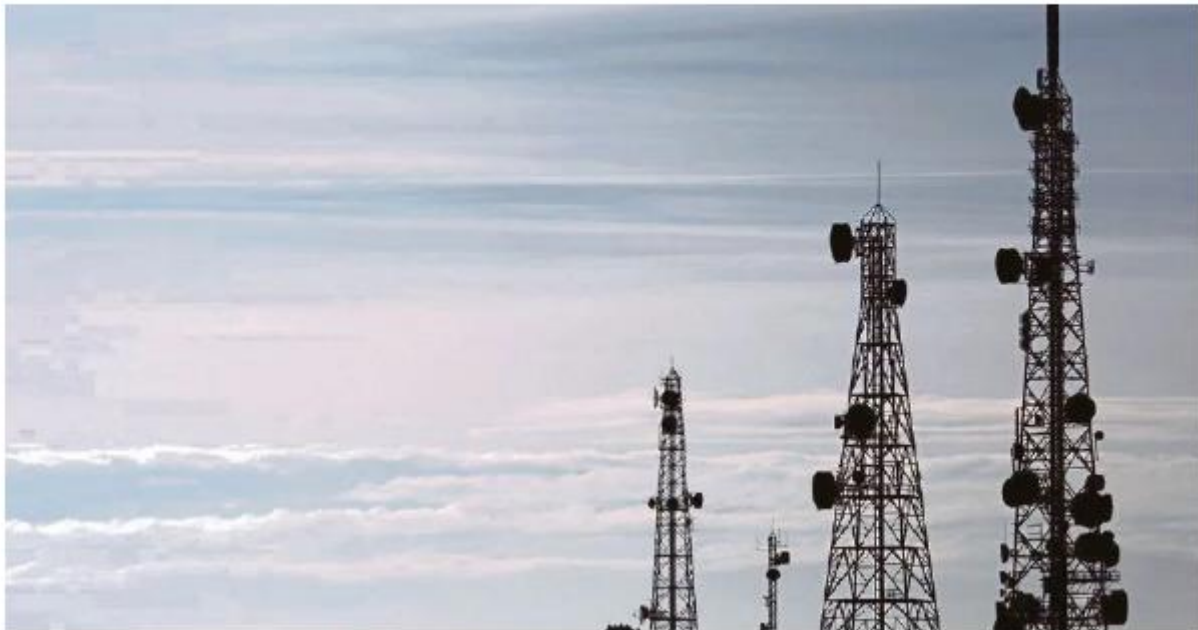


5G-Luddite Fallacy link, and how 7G & 8G are more exciting

By NST Business - January 18, 2022 @ 2:30pm



Luddite Fallacy is term coined to describe the thinking that innovation would have lasting harmful effects on employment.

KUALA LUMPUR: 5G technology will bring faster speed but it is not going to change how Malaysians live or is it going to pierce away our jobs, said an academician who heads the country's largest network of International Baccalaureate schools.

"Don't fall into the Luddite Fallacy, is my advice, but I fear many are and consequences will be dire," said Dr Vincent Chian, who heads Fairview International School, the only home bred Malaysian school which has a branch in the United Kingdom.

Luddite Fallacy is term coined to describe the thinking that innovation would have lasting harmful effects on employment.

The Luddites were a group of English textile workers in Nottingham who violently destroyed machines in 1811. They broke up power looms because they feared that these new machines were taking their jobs and livelihoods.

"A great number of articles in recent years imply that many jobs will become obsolete due to 5G technology," said Chian.

Listed among those with a high chance of having their jobs taken over by automation are bank loan officers, legal aids and taxi drivers.

"However, for the vast majority of us in Southeast Asia, technology is not going to force us out of our jobs. 5G will help us with speed but it's not the end game nor even close to the end game," said Chian.

Perspective wise, the 5G technology has already been around since 2018.

The technology is about 26 months old, with development works starting as early as in 2013.

"Apart from speed and the benefits that come with it, massive investment in education must be poured in now to prepare for the real changes in technology that is going to take place," said Chian, adding that the coming new technology will have the power to make jobs absolute as well as create new jobs.

"That technology is not 5G, which is still based on the Internet of Things concept. Let's face it, over the last 40 years, the only job that it has managed to make obsolete is that of elevator operators. The technology which is going to change how we work, and create jobs that do not exist is beyond 6G, that is now being developed and tested in South Korea and China,"

He added that in six years' time in 2028, there would a commercially viable 6G.

"I don't expect 6G to be the game change...but at 7G to 8G stage, we will be living in exciting times. 6G is relevant, to what we teach today or start teaching our pre-teens today in school. Why is this so? Well because 6G is based not only on faster speed, but on whole different concept.

"It will be the Internet of Everything (IoE) as opposed to the Internet of Things."

He said the IoE would bring together people, process, data, and things to make networked connections more relevant and valuable than ever before-turning information into actions that create new capabilities, richer experiences, and unprecedented economic opportunity for businesses, individuals, and countries.

The IoE has four pillars: people, process, data, and things builds on top of the Internet of Things (IoT) with one pillar: things.

The IoE will re-invent industries at three levels: business process, business model, and business moment.

"My advice to the government would be invest first and foremost on how the new generation of teachers will teach. Make sure they are familiar with technology and invest in linguistic skills, because the coming age will be communication and interaction centric," Chian said.