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AIRBNB remained committed in working with the government and local authorities to support safe and responsible travel and ensure peace of mind as we collaboratively pave the way forward for Malaysia's travel recovery.

Airbnb general manager for Southeast Asia, India, Hong Kong and Taiwan, Amanpreet Baja said the platform stands ready with its passionate local host community to welcome the world back to Malaysia as they visit new destinations and re-explore familiar favourites with their loved ones.

"Airbnb welcomes the Malaysian Prime Minister's announcement that Malaysia will reopen its international borders effective April 1, 2022 as the country transitions to the endemic phase.

This is a long-awaited and critical step forward towards enabling broader tourism and economic recovery in Malaysia," he said in a statement.

MALAYSIA DEBT VENTURES BHD (MDV), a subsidiary of the Minister of Finance Incorporated, has partnered Funding Societies Malaysia to drive the country's economic recovery by empowering startups and high potential technology-based micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

MDV has allocated a pilot fund of RM500,000 to be invested through a tailored financing solution by Funding Societies to further expand its reach to underserved businesses, especially businesses in line with the 10-10 Malaysian Science, Technology, Innovation and Economy (MySTIE) Framework by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI).

MDV chief executive officer Nizam Mohamed Nadzri said it also aimed to support the industries in the post-pandemic recovery phase to regain their business momentum.

"MDV intends to allocate an initial allocation of RM1 million as a loan through a digital financing platform this year and expects to increase the amount of investment to RM5 million in the near future," he said in a joint statement with Funding Societies today.

MALAYSIA DIGITAL ECONOMY CORPORATION (MDEC) has been working closely with local education technology (edutech) startups through various programmes to help them scale up.

In a statement today, MDEC said the effects from the Covid-19 pandemic were grim and the imposed lockdowns provided the necessary boon for edutech companies worldwide.

"In 2021, edutech startups such as Pandai Education, Anak2u and Evulx were kept busy as their solutions help students to cope with shifting changes of the Malaysian education landscape.

“These companies took part in various MDEC entrepreneurship development programmes such as GAIN programme, Digital Maker Movement and Founders Grindstone Bootcamp among others,” it said.

MDEC added that the future remains bright for edutech startups as more people are embracing hybrid learning that incorporates both physical and virtual modules.

THALES MALAYSIA SDN BHD has been appointed as the prime contractor to work with Prasarana Malaysia Bhd, Malaysia’s leading rail operator.

Thales’ technology will allow Prasarana to manage all four of its Kuala Lumpur rail lines, the KL Monorail, Kelana Jaya, Ampang and Sri Petaling lines, from a new single integrated control centre (ICC).

Thales will integrate its signalling supervision and control systems, along with network management and backup systems, into the new Kuala Lumpur ICC.

Its country director François-Xavier Boutes said this prestigious project will be an important milestone in the way Prasarana operates its lines.

“We look forward to delivering this project which will bring stronger synergies between Prasarana and Rapid Rail and enhance the passenger experience for commuters in Kuala Lumpur,” he said in a statement today.

SIRIM BHD has collaborated with its Japan counterpart, Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) Kuala Lumpur to support the introduction of Japanese smart manufacturing and Industry 4.0-related technologies to local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the manufacturing sector.

Following the success of the first online business matching workshop conducted on March 25, 2021, a second workshop was conducted online on March 9, 2022.

The second workshop saw seven Japanese solution providers participating in the programme, while eight local SMEs from various manufacturing industries joined the one-day workshop where 21 one-to-one business matching sessions were concluded.

The third and final phase of the collaboration would involve business matching events on larger scales and is open to all Malaysian manufacturers and Japanese solution providers.