



PRESS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

MALAYSIA'S RANKING CLIMBED TO 23 FROM 29 IN THE GOVERNMENT AI READINESS INDEX COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR

PUTRAJAYA, 14 December 2023 - Malaysia's ranking in the Government AI Readiness Index had shown an improvement compared to the previous year. In 2022, Malaysia was ranked 29 with 67.37 points, and in 2023, our ranking climbed to 23 with 68.71 points.

It shows that the collective efforts spearheaded by Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and actively supported by the quadruple helix players are showing a positive result. The Government AI Readiness Index consists of three pillars, namely Government; Data and Infrastructure; and Technology Sector. Each pillar has its own score and contributes to the overall country ranking.

In the recent 2024 budget announcement by the Prime Minister, Malaysia's first Artificial Intelligence faculty will be established at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). This would involve an initial allocation of RM20 million, and the establishment of this faculty was part of the government's initiative to accelerate the growth of AI in the country, and in line with the global digital movement. It will become a center of expertise and knowledge sharing for all public and private universities in the country.

AI is the biggest commercial opportunity in the coming years as demonstrated by a study from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in 2017, which indicates that the application of AI can increase the global gross domestic product (GDP) by 14% or equivalent to USD15.7 trillion in 2030. In this context, Malaysia's vision and target in the digital economy is to

contribute a total of RM448 billion in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to be achieved by the year 2025. Currently, Malaysia is ranked 33rd in the IMD World Digital Competitiveness Index 2023.

The guideline for Responsible AI principles is also being developed and will be aligned with international standards, such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the ASEAN Guide on Governance and Ethics. This guideline is expected to be launched in the first quarter of 2024.

Continued efforts will be enhanced to position Malaysia as one of the Top 20 countries in AI including streamlining initiatives under the National AI Roadmap 2021 - 2025. Malaysia emphasizes collective collaboration, locally and internationally, to drive innovation, advance responsible AI use, and foster global partnerships. The nation invites international collaboration, envisioning a shared journey in harnessing AI's potential for a brighter global future.

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Prepared by

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