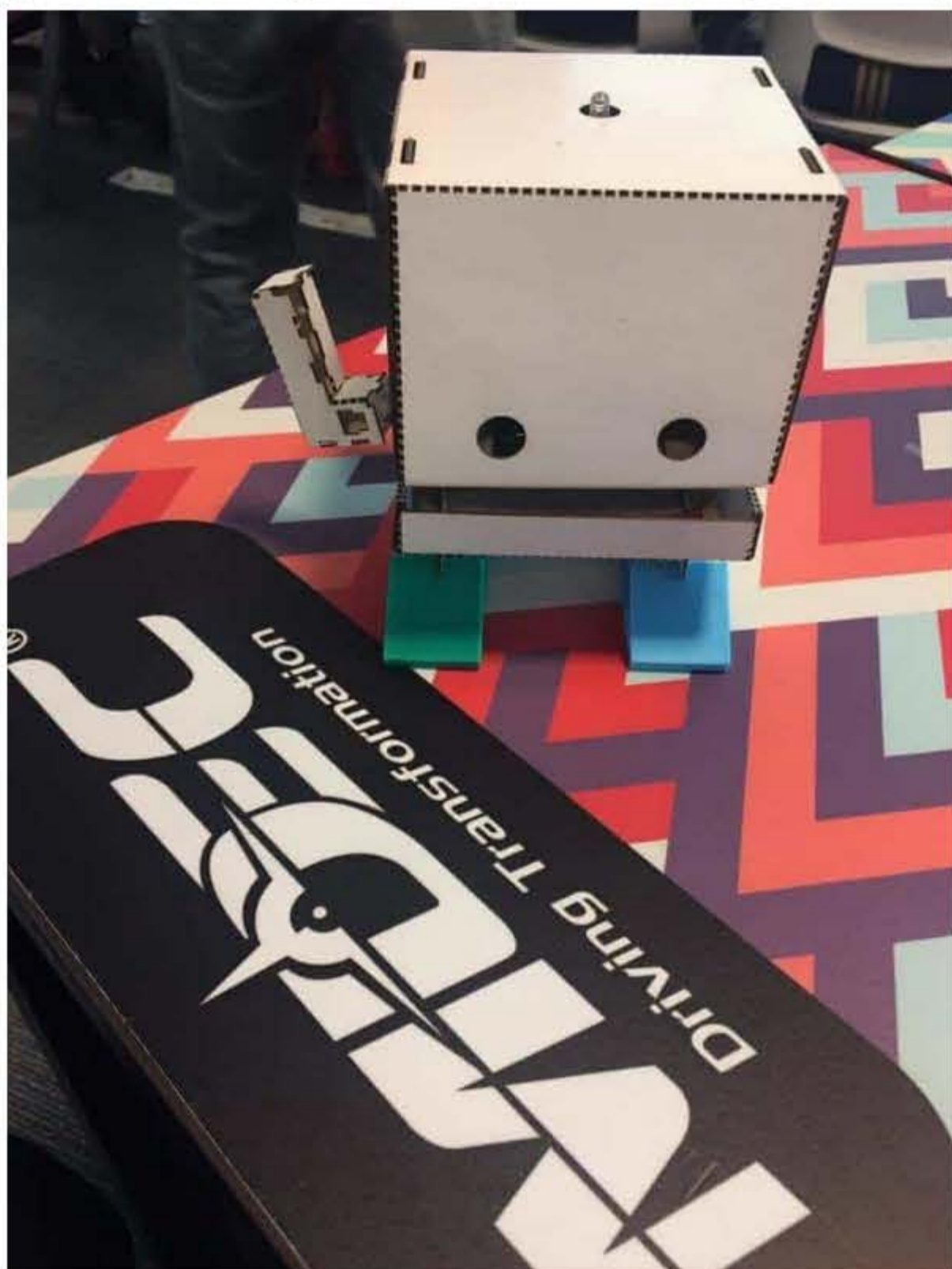


Students Build TJBots During IBM Watson Maker Workshop



A recent article published in a daily noted that future graduates in which ever field they come from will have to know basic coding and web language skills. Whether they decide to work for someone or start their own enterprise, they will have to engage in a technological driven environment. The road ahead is digital and no one wants to be left out.

Malaysian students can take respite as Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) is working with various agencies and corporate companies to transform young Malaysians from digital consumers into digital makers. The agency tasked to digitise the nation recently co-worked with IBM Malaysia to host the IBM Watson Maker Workshop at a secondary school in KLIA with the objective to enable students to acquire beginner's maker and coding skills, and to learn about artificial intelligence in a fun way.



Over 30 students were guided to build and assemble 'TJBots' from laser-printed cardboards and Raspberry Pi 3 boards which were then connected to Watson Speech to Text API a service available on IBM Bluemix. The IBM TJBOT is an open-source project and a diy kit that allows anyone to build their own programmable cardboard robots powered by Watson. The cardboard cut-out can be 3D printed or laser cut, fitted with Raspberry Pi boards and a variety of add-ons such as RGB LED light, a microphone, a servo motor, and a camera. To bring TJBots to life, students referred to a number of 'recipes'; which are step-by-step instructions to help them connect the TJBots to Watson services. Watson will then interpret and process the voice commands received via the microphone before prompting the robots to perform the commands. The recipes are designed to work on a Raspberry Pi and Makers are encouraged to try and create their own recipes based on their ideas and creativity.

The MDEC and IBM Watson Maker Workshop is definitely a good start and we are hoping to organise similar workshops this year for students from other schools to keep the momentum going, especially with the much anticipated #mydigitalmaker Fair 2017 inching closer," said Sumitra Nair, Vice President, Talent & Digital Entrepreneurship Division, MDEC.

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