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## 8 Local Universities, 5 Polytechnics Receive Digital Tech Recognition

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PUTRAJAYA, Aug 28 -- Eight local universities and five polytechnics have been awarded the Premier Digital Tech University and Preferred Digital Tech Polytechnic status respectively.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said these higher education institutions were recognised for their qualifications and commitment in offering top-notch digital technology courses, and ensuring highly-skilled graduates would continue to fill future digital economy jobs locally and globally.

The eight universities are Universiti Malaya, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Multimedia University, Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, Sunway University, Taylor's University and Asia Pacific University.

The five polytechnics given the Preferred Digital Tech Polytechnic status are Politeknik Balik Pulau in Penang, Politeknik Mersing in Johor, Politeknik Sultan Idris Shah in Selangor, Politeknik Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin in Terengganu and Politeknik Ungku Omar in Perak.

"We need to ensure that our children pursuing tertiary education receive quality education. Therefore, it is important that we upgrade our local universities and polytechnics.

"Besides, as Malaysia is ushering the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we want to take the lead as the producer of top-flight information technology professionals," he said at the announcement of Malaysia digital technology institutions, here, today.

Also present were Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) chief executive officer, Datuk Yasmin Mahmood and Polytechnic Education Department director-general, Prof Datuk Mohd Ismail Abd Aziz.

On another note, Idris assured that the institutions would be able to continuously nurture world-class, high-level digital tech talents in the areas of education and human capital growth to attract multinationals to consider setting up operations in this country.

Meanwhile, Yasmin said the initiatives were to further nurture high-potential digital tech institutions and make them world class to ensure Malaysia retains the top talents, and able to provide a complete, sustainable and well-supported system for students to experience a well-structured co-curriculum and structured ecosystem supported by faculty and industry players.

"We are confident that these awarded institutions will produce more high-quality talents for digital economy jobs. The expectations now are very high for our education system to rise up to the challenge of driving human capital development," she said.

The 'Premier Digital Tech Universities' and 'Preferred Digital Tech Polytechnics' will offer comprehensive range of services on career development, programmes and experiential learning, internship opportunities and employment assistance.

-- BERNAMA