Multimedia University (MMU) and Teradata sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to form strategic academic partnership to equip students in Malaysia with big data analytics skills

MMU and Teradata University Network to share expertise, information and access to big data analytics knowledge to enhance curriculum and align research to the industry needs

Cyberjaya, November 7, 2016 – Multimedia University, Malaysia (MMU) and Teradata today announced a strategic partnership to collaborate on education and research in an effort to cultivate the next generation of data science professionals and experts in Malaysia.

Through this co-operation, MMU will gain access to the Teradata University Network (TUN), a web-based portal that provides complementary teaching and learning tools used by more than 45,000 students around the world to share expertise, access knowledge as well as information on how to enhance both curriculum and align research to the current industry needs. Teradata University Network currently has over 5,500 registered faculty members, from over 2,400 universities, in 115 countries, with thousands of student users. A key to the success of Teradata University Network is that it is led by academics to ensure the content will meet the needs of today's classrooms.

Leveraging the partnership, which commences November, 2016, MMU's Faculty of Computing and Informatics will offer a Data Science Specialization as part of its Bachelor of Computer Science degree. This step was taken following the formalisation of a Data Science Institute (DSI) at MMU last month designed to cater to both research and industry engagement of MMU's expertise in this area.

"The signing of today's memorandum of understanding (MoU) is a timely joint initiative for the DSI and Teradata, whom we respect immensely given their global leadership in the provision of Big Data analytics (BDA) solutions and services. Teradata University Network benefits from input from faculty members globally to create a platform for information and knowledge sharing. Furthermore, University staff as well as students, will have access to Teradata's rich suite of software," said the President of MMU, Professor Datuk Dr. Ahmad Rafi Mohamed Eshaq officiating at the MoU signing ceremony recently.

"This MoU facilitates greater input from a leading industry player, and Teradata has committed to provide experts to support exposure to our students and staff alike to its services and solutions. This exposure to the industry is absolutely vital as, it will help to seed

ideas and prepare future generations to understand and conform to the needs of the industry," Professor Datuk Dr. Ahmad Rafi added.

Mr. Saqib Sabah, Country Manager and Director of Teradata Malaysia also commented, "This is an important strategic partnership for Teradata as we will now be able to work with MMU to jointly nurture and develop future data scientists, thereby addressing the huge skills gap in the country in this area of expertise."

Dato' Yasmin, CEO of Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) also commented, "The Big Data Analytics ecosystem requires an ever-growing consistent and sustainable supply of skills expertise. Our goal is to continue to train, develop and nurture data science professionals in collaboration with Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) as well as the private sector. The partnership between MMU and Teradata will help to accelerate training of Malaysians in the area of Big Data Analytics as it is becoming increasingly more and more important for our Malaysian workforce to be equipped with data science skillsets as we rapidly work towards achieving Malaysia's vision of becoming a regional hub for Big Data Analytics. I am confident that with this strategic collaboration, more young Malaysians will adopt the big data analytics mindset as it becomes a game changer and key for driving Malaysia's digital transformation agenda."

Photograph Caption:
Prof. Dr. Ahmad Rafi Mohamed Eshaq (second from left) exchanges MoU documents with Mr. Saqib Sabah at the MoU signing ceremony at MMU Cyberjaya, recently. Also present, Professor Dr. Ho Chin Kuan, the Dean of Faculty of Computing and Informatics MMU (left) and Syamsul Badrin, the account director (right) of Teradata.

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About MMU

Multimedia University (MMU) was established in July 1996. It is a subsidiary of Telekom Malaysia Berhad (TM), Malaysia's broadband champion and leading integrated information and communications group. Originally known as University Telekom and located in Melaka, the university's current name took hold in March 1997, when Telekom Malaysia was given the enormous task of establishing a new campus in Cyberjaya that would supply the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) with superior quality knowledge workers. In 2014, MMU completed its third campus MMU Nusajaya in EduCity Iskandar, Nusajaya, Johor. The university currently hosts 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students, more than 1,700 of whom are expatriates from about 70 countries.

Currently, MMU is one of Malaysia's leading private universities as it is listed in the Top 200 of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2016 and 2015 in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. This achievement is another significant milestone to MMU as this is the second subject to be ranked in the Top 200 of the World rankings. The other subject is Computer Science and Information Systems (CS&IS) which made the top 200 in 2014. To learn more about MMU, please visit www.mmu.edu.my.

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About Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC)

Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation Sdn. Bhd. or MDEC (formerly known as Multimedia Development Corporation Sdn. Bhd.) is an agency under the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia. MDEC has been entrusted to develop, coordinate, and promote Malaysia's digital economy, information and communications technology (ICT) industry, and the adoption of digital technology amongst Malaysians.

Incorporated on 5 June 1996, MDEC was officially established to strategically advise the Malaysian Government on legislation, policies and standards for ICT and multimedia operations. Additionally, MDEC is also entrusted to oversee the development of the MSC Malaysia initiative, the platform to nurture the growth of local tech companies whilst attracting foreign direct investments (FDIs) and domestic direct investments (DDIs) from global multinational companies to invest and develop cutting-edge digital and creative solutions in Malaysia.

In 2011, MDEC's mandate was broadened to drive Malaysia's transition towards a developed digital economy by 2020. In 2012, Digital Malaysia was official unveiled as the nation's transformational programme to achieve this objective. Digital Malaysia is a fully developed national agenda with a sustainable digital economy built upon a vibrant domestic ICT industry, transformative adoption of digital solutions by government, businesses and citizens, as well as a robust enabling ecosystem. For more information about MDEC, please visit www.mdec.my

About Teradata

Teradata empowers companies to achieve high-impact business outcomes. Our focus on business solutions for analytics, coupled with our industry leading technology and architecture expertise, can unleash the potential of great companies. Visit teradata.com.

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