



PRESS RELEASE

GBS ISKANDAR SUMMIT 2018 TO DRIVE THE INDUSTRY 4.0 AGENDA IN MALAYSIA'S GLOBAL BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPTEMBER 18 2018 – The inaugural GBS Iskandar Summit 2018, launched today, was officiated by the Yang Berhormat Jimmy Puah, Johor State International Trade, Investment and Utilities Committee chairman. This summit explores the readiness and challenges faced by Malaysia's Global Business Services sector in embracing and adopting the evolution of Industry 4.0.

The summit, themed *Are You Future Proof?* is organised by i2M Ventures in partnership with Outsourcing Malaysia, an initiative of the Outsourcing Industry and a chapter of PIKOM. The Summit's supporting partners are the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), Johor State Investment Centre (JSIC) and Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC).

The event attracted over 200 participants, comprising of senior industry practitioners and key C-level executives seeking to grasp the impact of Industry Revolution 4.0 on the GBS Industry which includes the Outsourcing and Shared Services industry.

"This summit is aimed at providing insights and case studies to give the participants a thorough understanding of Industry 4.0 and how they can improve their analysing processes, beef up the human resource in their organisations as well as deploying the right tools, controls and measures needed to be a competitive player in the global business services industry," said i2M Ventures Sdn Bhd Managing Director, Zulfiqar Zainuddin.

Speakers included leading experts from Fusionex International, Frost & Sullivan, PERSOLKELLY, IBM Application Services, Zalora Group, KPMG Consulting, Wipro Consumer Care, Daythree Business Services Sdn. Bhd. and Matryzel Consulting.

Cheah Kok Hoong, Chairman of Outsourcing Malaysia said, “we are happy to have partnered with i2M Ventures Sdn. Bhd. for this inaugural GBS Summit 2018, which was successfully organised.”

The relationship between both organisations proves to be a successful strategic move that was initiated 5 years ago and will continue to work together towards creating a sustainable GBS environment in Iskandar, says Cheah.

GBS Iskandar is a specialised programme which started in 2016 by i2M Ventures for the Global Business Services with the objective to turn Iskandar Puteri into a Global Business Services Hub.

GBS Iskandar is a game changer that leverages Iskandar Puteri’s unique proposition as the World’s Best Nearshore to Singapore. It looks into achieving unprecedented growth in terms of attracting investments and creating high-value and knowledge-based employment to benefit the communities and the nation, said Zulfiqar.

Its strategic location between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur is attracting new companies to set up here as the site allows them to be near to their core activities while increasing the efficiency of their supporting operations.

“As of July 2018, i2M has attracted a total of RM2.4 billion in investments from local and multinational companies setting up their operations in Iskandar Malaysia, creating 5,260 high value jobs in areas such as finance and accounting, human resources, engineering design and services as well as IT services across all industries,” said Zulfiqar.

The state of Johor’s overall economy is resilient and its Gross Domestic Product is projected to continue to grow above the national level, said YB Jimmy Puah, Johor State International Trade, Investment and Utilities Committee chairman.

“Johor’s rapid growth is mainly due to the development of Iskandar Malaysia which has attracted a steady flow of investments thanks to the nation’s cost competitiveness of doing business, a strong pool of skilled talent and improved security,” said Puah, adding that the state of Johor is one of the largest contributors to the nation’s GDP.

He added that the government’s utmost priority is in ensuring Johor’s growth with the creation of high-value jobs with competitive wages and benefits.

“GBS Industry should look at how it can take advantage of the opportunities from both Johor and Singapore where more are looking at embarking on Industry 4.0,” said Puah, adding that manufacturers in Johor should explore Industry 4.0 to increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

He also said to ensure continuous growth, Johor is committed to embrace new technology and upskill our workforce to be future-ready. “Iskandar Malaysia, for example, will be given special attention especially in the Shared Services and Outsourcing industries,”.

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About i2M Ventures Sdn Bhd:

i2M Ventures Sdn Bhd was established in 2013 as a company that focuses on the development of strategic investment promotion initiatives known as GBS ISKANDAR for the Global Business Services (GBS) and Shared Services & Outsourcing (SSO) sector in Iskandar Puteri, Iskandar Malaysia.

It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Khazanah Nasional Berhad – the strategic investment fund of the Government of Malaysia. For more information, visit <http://www.gbs-iskandar.my>

About GBS ISKANDAR

GBS ISKANDAR is an initiative by i2M and it is a specialised program to facilitate businesses to locate GBS Operations in Iskandar Puteri, Iskandar Malaysia.

With GBS ISKANDAR, companies will be able to enjoy expert facilitation in order to meet their GBS location requirements, covering key areas such as talent, infrastructure, liveability and incentives. Additionally, qualified companies will enjoy privileged access to customised incentives provided by GBS ISKANDAR.

About Outsourcing Malaysia

Outsourcing Malaysia (OM), an initiative of the outsourcing industry and a chapter of PIKOM – the country’s national ICT industry association, is envisioned to promote and develop Malaysia’s outsourcing services industry as a preferred global hub for high-value outsourcing. Supported by its founding partner – the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) – and spearheaded by a group of prominent industry leaders from the global services industry, OM focuses on enabling both buyers and providers to work together on addressing service needs within the aegis of global best practices and competencies.

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