

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PIKOM Champions Malaysian Talent and Innovation on the Global Stage

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 December 2024 — PIKOM, the National Tech Association of Malaysia, is proud to announce that Malaysian talents and businesses have demonstrated exceptional innovation and excellence on the global stage in 2024. Through strategic affiliations and participation in prestigious international competitions, PIKOM has positioned Malaysia as a hub of cutting-edge technology, innovation, and talent.

“This is truly a testament of Malaysian companies and individuals making waves in the global tech arena. PIKOM will be delighted to provide the platform for them to excel and proud of their achievements,” said Alex Liew, Chairman of PIKOM.

At the **WITSA Excellence Awards 2024** held in Armenia this past October, Malaysia achieved significant victories:

- **SIDEC (Selangor Information Technology & Digital Economy Corporation)** received the **Digital Opportunity/Inclusion Award (Public Sector)** for its impactful SME Digitalisation programs.
- **Telekom Research & Development Sdn Bhd** won the **Digital Transformation of the Year (Private Sector/NGO)** award for their Mobile Intelligent Network Diagnostic System (MINDS).

Dr. Sharlene Thiagarajah, CEO of TM Research & Development, shared her pride in the achievement: “This award reflects our commitment to innovation and the transformative power of technology in driving the digital economy and solving real-world challenges.” She also emphasized the value of WCIT 2024: “It was an incredible platform to connect with global tech leaders, showcase our innovations, and push our capabilities to the next level.”

The event also hosted the first-ever **WITSA World Cup**, a global scale-up pitching challenge. Malaysian companies **PANDAI EDUCATION** and **ENTOMAL BIOTECH**, nominated by PIKOM after holding the national level pitch selection, triumphed by claiming the top two spots, beating 14 other contenders from around the world. This platform provided invaluable global market access, mentorship opportunities, and exposure to venture capital for the participants.

Yanni Xinyan Ching of Entomal Biotech shared her thoughts on their success: “Making it to the final 2 was a big win not just for us, but for Malaysia. To have our innovations recognized on such an international stage is proof that Malaysia is stepping up as a top tech and innovation hub. And we owe so much to the ecosystem that has nurtured us—our agencies, mentors, and the invaluable grant support. Thank you for believing in us and helping us fly the Malaysian flag high in this global competition.”

At the **ASOCIO Digital Summit** in Tokyo, Malaysian tech professionals, organizations and companies, nominated by PIKOM, were recognized with the esteemed **ASOCIO DX Awards** for their outstanding contributions to digital transformation. Award recipients included:

- **Ministry of Digital – Digital Government Award**
- **Heitech Padu Berhad – Digital Government Award**
- **National Cybersecurity Agency (NACSA) – Cybersecurity Award**
- **Glocomp Systems (M) Sdn Bhd – Cybersecurity Award**
- **Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) – Public/Private Partnership Award**
- **Cyberview Sdn. Bhd. – Smart City Award**
- **VSTECs Berhad – Outstanding Tech Company Award**
- **PEOPLElogy Development Sdn Bhd – EdTech Award**
- **Ms. Catherine Lian of IBM – Women In Tech Award**

These accolades underscore Malaysia's capability to leverage digital technologies for economic and societal advancement.

In November, at the **APICTA Awards 2024** held in Brunei, Malaysia's nominees continued their winning streak with five companies securing top-three finishes and two others earning Merit awards:

1. **Winner of Artificial Intelligence Category:** myQuickHR Sdn Bhd for HR Avenue (AI-powered Talent Acquisition solution).
2. **First Runner-Up for Digital Marketing/Advertising and Marketplaces:** CAR SOME.
3. **First Runner-Up for Agriculture, Supply and Sustainability:** Meraque Services Sdn Bhd for Hybrid AGV - RACE.
4. **Second Runner-Up for AI:** NEXLAW AI.
5. **Second Runner-Up for Senior Student Projects-Solutions:** Wesley Methodist School Penang (International) for Read Right.
6. **Merit for Senior Student Projects-Applications:** Foon Yew High School for Obstacle Detection System.
7. **Merit for Junior Student Projects:** SJKC Yuk Chai for SmartCycle BioFuel.

These remarkable achievements reflect Malaysia's diverse and robust talent pool, spanning from primary school students to scale-ups, public institutions, and private organizations.

They also highlight the nation's exceptional application and utilization of technology in solving real-world challenges.

A Call to Action for 2025

As we look ahead to 2025, PIKOM invites Malaysian talents, businesses, and innovators to seize the opportunity to participate in global competitions. These platforms not only recognize excellence but also provide unparalleled access to international markets, mentorship, and funding opportunities.

"The success of Malaysian companies and talents on the global stage demonstrates the nation's ability to lead in technology and innovation. PIKOM remains steadfast in its mission to promote Malaysia's capabilities and drive more participation in global events," added Alex Liew.

PIKOM congratulates all the winners and participants for their outstanding achievements and contributions. Together, let us continue to propel Malaysia to new heights in the global tech arena.



Main photo Caption: Left to Right - Ong Kian Yew, PIKOM, Wan Zailani, Heitech Padu, Stan Singh, ASOCIO Chairman-elect, David Wong, ASOCIO Past Chairman, Catherine Lian, IBM, Anwar Udzir, Deputy Head of Mission, Malaysian Embassy in Tokyo, Ong Chin Seong, PIKOM Immediate Past Chairman, Soong Jan Hsiung, VSTECs, Alex Liew, PIKOM Chairman. Kamarul Ariffin, Cyberview and Shafinaz Salim, Cyberview at the ASOCIO Digital Summit Tokyo



Images from WCIT 2024 Armenia. Left Photo - Dr. Sharlene Thiagarajah, CEO of TM Research & Development with Mr. Loo Chuan Boon, COO of SIDEC. Right Photo - Yanni Xinyan Ching, Co-Founder Entomal Biotech, Khairul Anwar Mohamad Zaki, Founder, Pandai Education with WITSA Chairman Datuk Dr. Sean Siah.

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About PIKOM

PIKOM, The National Tech Association of Malaysia is an association formed in 1986, representing the digital technology (TECH) industry in Malaysia. Its membership currently stands at more than 1,000 active companies involved in a whole spectrum of digital TECH products and services which command more than 80% of the National Digital Economy.

For more information, visit www.pikom.org.my

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