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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**MALAYSIA BOARD OF TECHNOLOGISTS (MBOT) EMPOWERS  
HIGH-SKILLED TALENT**

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**PUTRAJAYA, 10 SEPTEMBER 2021** – With the theme '**Accelerating Nation's High-Skilled Talent**', Malaysia Board of Technologists (MBOT) hosted a MBOT Webinar Series Special Edition today.

**YB Dato' Sri Dr. Adham Baba, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation** in his speech expressed the commitment of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) to ensure Science, Technology and Innovation contribute significantly to socio-economic and people's well-being.

He stressed that Malaysia is currently in an era of modernisation in which the usage of new technology is crucial and fundamental. Artificial Intelligence; Internet of Things (IoT); Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT); Advanced Materials and Supported by Cloud Computing and Big Data Analytics (BDA) are some of the latest technologies that are demanded in our industry and country. Therefore, the empowerment of our nation's workforce is needed to develop the technologies towards readiness to face the challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

"I strongly believe that our country has seen the light at the end of the tunnel. We are able to manage this challenging situation, and soon, we will start to recover. Therefore, it is important for technologists, technicians, scientists, and researchers to be the key players in the development of workforce and expertise to enhance the skills, productivity and competitiveness through science and technology, especially in the post-pandemic economic recovery," he said.

As of the second quarter of 2021, a report by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) highlights our industry currently has only 24.7 per cent of the high skilled workforce, while 75.3 per cent are semi-skilled and low-skilled. In fact, this percentage shows that Malaysia is lagging behind other developed countries such as Luxembourg (59.5%), Singapore (54.7%) and Switzerland (51.3%) and the United States (42.2%). Therefore, in order to move in tandem with the developed countries, Malaysia needs to increase the percentage of the high-skilled workforce to 45 percent.

The webinar featured Dr. Amanina Abdur Rahman from The World Bank Group, Mr. Rony Ambrose Gobilee from Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) and Mr. Hun Wah Cheah from Oppstar Technology Sdn. Bhd. while Ts. Mohd Fadzil Harun from Halliburton (Asia Pacific) acted as a moderator. A total of XXX participants from public and private universities, agencies, departments, organizations and relevant industry players participated in this webinar.

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