

IEM-MDEC DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

reported by



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On 31 January 2019, IEM President Ir. David Lai signed a partnership agreement with the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) for the establishment of a digital maker hub in Wisma IEM. MDEC was represented by Ms. Sumitra Devi.

AIM & OBJECTIVE

Setting up a digital maker hub as a multipurpose resource room will enable digital activities to be conducted for the benefit of IEM members and the general public. The aim is to uplift digital knowledge and innovation for the development of the country. IEM members are encouraged to donate generously as well as to contribute to the digital maker hub to the best of their abilities.

The hub will also act as a collaboration platform for industries to develop digital solutions with IEM members and, more importantly, allow IEM members to exchange digital knowledge, ideas and solutions as well as to nurture entrepreneur spirits at the same time.

The digital maker hub will enable digital making activities such as computer program coding, apps development, 3D printing, robotics, embedded programming and data analytics. It will become a networking centre for the convergence of educators, students and industry experts.

It will also encourage the development of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) activities for school students.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF IEM MAKER SPACE

Digital Making Activities/Classes: There will be digital making activities and workshop/classes for a minimum of 200 students on a yearly basis in areas such as physical computing (arduino, raspberry Pi, robotics etc), software development (python programming, web development, app development etc), creative media (scratch programming, music/video/image editing, animation/illustration/publication design) and engineering & design (3D modelling, sculpturing & printing etc).

Establishing a digital maker hub can help promote awareness activities and training courses for parents, teachers and students in the various states or regions. Students from the local communities who need help with their digital maker projects will be provided with mentoring and guidance. Activities or classes can be updated and featured on the #mydigitalmaker website.



Group photograph

Promotion & Awareness: The digital maker hub will allow the sharing of modules (computing, robotics, photography & videography) and digital maker champion module, the digital making resources co-developed by Ministry of Education (MoE) & MDEC to visiting schools for free. This includes #mydigitalmaker website branding logo in all physical & online activities, programmes and campaigns related to digital making. The hashtag #mydigitalmaker will be used in all relevant social media platforms whenever an organisation carries out digital maker activities and courses.

Sustainability: There are plans to put in a place a self-financing model to ensure the long-term sustainability of the digital maker hub, including mobilising university volunteers as trainers/facilitators and running paid courses for target groups etc.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF MDEC

MDEC will provide co-curricular modules (Computing, Robotics, Photography & Videography) of digital maker clubs, Digital Maker Champion modules and the Digital Maker Playbook, which offers guidance on establishing and operating a digital maker hub.

MDEC will facilitate introductions and mutually beneficial partnerships with partners such as state education departments, ICT companies and crowd-funding platforms.

To promote the digital maker hub, MDEC will feature its location and activities on the #mydigitalmaker website and facebook page. It will also feature the brand name and/or logo of partners on relevant platforms and promotional content, facilitate the promotion of #mydigitalmaker partner activities via Ministry of Education and provide a physical plaque for each digital maker hub. ■