

Gobind: Importance of Inclusivity in Shaping the Future of Technology

WOMEN IN TECH APAC SUMMIT Kuala Lumpur, 8 & 9 October 2024



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Oct 17, 2024 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - The third edition of the *Women in Tech (WIT) APAC Summit and Awards*, which opened on Tuesday, featured a rich program that includes workshops, high-level peer-to-peer sessions, and hard-problem-solving panel discussions. This year's summit also introduces an *Oxford-style debate*, allowing participants to engage closely in sharing knowledge, defining common projects, and setting up a roadmap to drive accountability.

Organized by Women in Tech® Global Movement, the event is being held at the prestigious Central Bank of Malaysia, marking Malaysia's status as the APAC HQ for Women in Tech. The organization has made significant strides in empowering women in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) since its inception in Paris six years ago.

Women in Tech® is a global non-profit organization headquartered in France, with a mission to empower 5 million women and girls in STEAM by 2030. With 250,000 members across 61 countries, WIT has become a global leader in advocacy, education, business, and digital inclusion.

Key Highlights from the Minister of Digital's Speech

In his keynote address, *YB Gobind Singh Deo*, Malaysia's Minister of Digital, underscored the critical role of women in the tech industry and the importance of inclusivity in shaping the future of technology.

"As we stand on the precipice of this ever-evolving digital era, it is extremely important that we recognize and amplify the contributions of women in the tech space," said Gobind Singh. He emphasized that while progress has been made, there is still more to be done to encourage women to take on leadership roles in the tech sector.

The Minister also referenced the *World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report 2024*, which showed a decline in women's representation in senior leadership roles across industries, including tech. "This signals a broader issue," he said. "We need more leadership training, mentorship, and support to help women ascend to senior roles in the tech sector."

He highlighted successful initiatives like *AI Untuk Rakyat*, which attracted over 1.3 million Malaysians—52% of whom were women—and the *#GirlsInICT* campaign, aimed at encouraging young girls to pursue STEM careers. "By cultivating an interest in digital tech early on, we hope to see more girls playing an active role in this space and eventually contributing to Malaysia's digital economy," Gobind Singh added.

The Minister also announced that *WIT Malaysia* will sign a *Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)* with *MDEC* to establish stronger, long-term collaborations in mentoring, talent hub funding, and facilitating opportunities for women in the Malaysian digital sphere.

WIT Malaysia's Role and Expansion

In her keynote speech, *Yuki Aizawa*, APAC Director and Country Director for Women in Tech Malaysia highlighted the movement's rapid growth in the region. "Since last year, we have expanded our reach with new chapters in Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and the Philippines, with more to come in early 2025. We are proud to host this year's summit in Malaysia as we continue empowering women in the tech space across APAC," said Aizawa.

The summit features contributions from leaders like *HE Mr. Axel Cruau*, Ambassador of France to Malaysia, and *HE Katsuhiko Takahashi*, Ambassador of Japan. The event also includes a fireside chat on the *Osaka World Expo* and its impact on women and economic growth.

The two-day event will culminate with the *WIT APAC Awards Gala Dinner*, where the winners will be announced, and many of them will compete at the *WIT Global Awards* in Paris later this year.

About Women in Tech Malaysia

Established in 2022, Women in Tech Malaysia is part of the global Women in Tech movement. It aims to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEAM, empowering women and girls through education, business, and social inclusion initiatives. As a leader in advocacy, WIT Malaysia has successfully expanded its reach across the APAC region, solidifying its position as the regional HQ.

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