

GKK Malaysia, IIT Madras Pravartak Partner to Advance Digital Skills

First Malaysian company to collaborate with Indian Tech Innovation Hub for country's burgeoning AI development needs



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia May 23, 2025 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Leading professional training and certifications services, GKK Consultants Sdn Bhd (GKK Malaysia), has sealed a landmark partnership with IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation (IITMPTF), thus becoming the first Malaysian company to join forces with the innovation hub of India's top-ranked technical institute.

This alliance will support and strengthen Malaysia's National Artificial Intelligence Office (NAIO) and the country's ongoing Digital initiatives. Its goal is to bridge the digital skills gap through certified technology education programmes in the emerging technological areas of Artificial Intelligence, semiconductor design, green energy, Industry 5.0 applications and other advanced digital domains.

Explained Dr Gajendra Balasingham, managing director of GKK Malaysia, "According to Malaysia's Department of Statistics, the digital economy alone contributed 23.5 per cent to 2023's GDP of RM427.7 billion. Companies are still struggling to hire suitable employees for cloud computing, AI and data analytics.

“Also, with the USA’s recent tariff applications, this move stands to play a major contribution in overall cost-cutting measures, as many MNCs will be resorting to hiring more Malaysians within their organisations.

“This timely collaboration, formalised early this year, stands to empower underserved communities and develop a future-ready workforce for Malaysia’s ever-growing tech sector. Programmes will be conducted at various Malaysian public tertiary institutions by industry experts, blending digital literacy with advanced technical skills.

“As a key player in Malaysia’s tech education-cum HR landscape, GKK Malaysia is honoured to collaborate with IITMPTF to advance the nation’s digital ambitions.

This partnership aligns perfectly with Malaysia Digital’s focus on AI governance and NAIIO’s strategic priorities, ensuring our workforce remains competitive in the IR5.0 era,” informed Dr Gajendra.

The first programme involves 550 final-year students at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), in collaboration with IITMPTF and GKK Malaysia’s ecosystem partners.

Both lecturers and students will benefit from comprehensive training covering Data Analytics, Java Full Stack Programming, Cyber Security, and AWS Cloud Practitioner. This initiative empowers Malaysian talent with globally recognized industry-relevant skills certified by IITMPTF.

The programs will be integrated into the students’ curriculum hours that cover both hands-on experience and real-world insights. Upon completion of the two-year programme, candidates will be equipped with job-ready skills, enabling them for immediate entry not only into the country’s workforce, but globally as well.

IITMPTF’s chief knowledge officer, Mr Balamurali Shankar, remarked, “This partnership will decisively bridge the skill gap by preparing more tech professionals in cutting-edge technologies, especially in Cybersecurity, AI and Machine Learning.

“Students will master concepts and gain invaluable, hands-on experience and real-work insights through both academic and industry faculty support. Also, the globally recognized certificates they earn will further enhance their employability, making them highly sought-after talents both in Malaysia and internationally.”

Speaking from Kuala Lumpur about this partnership and to convey his congratulations, His Excellency Mr B.N. Reddy, India’s high commissioner to Malaysia, added “The Indian High Commission is delighted to learn that GKK Malaysia has established a framework to promote advanced courses in Malaysia through IITMPTF.

“IITMPTF is a renowned, leading innovation hub in India. Its advanced courses in cyberphysical systems and other technology domains will surely enhance the competitive advantage of many Malaysian companies.”

Concluded Dr Gajendra, “A recent survey conducted by Randstand Malaysia and published in its ‘2025 Job Market Outlook & Salary Guide’ indicates that 59 per cent of Malaysian companies want to increase their headcount by an average of 10 to 15 per cent this year.

“However, many are facing challenges in sourcing skilled professionals, especially experts in AI,

cybersecurity and software development.

“Demand for such professionals has surged, but the nation’s workforce is still lacking the necessary expertise to meet immediate industry standards. Also, many of today’s current workforce has become redundant, not being able to be reskilled fast enough to cope with today’s demands in cloud, AI, cybersecurity and many other new technology applications.”

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Background Information:

GKK Malaysia Sdn Bhd (GKK Malaysia)

Established in 2011, GKK Malaysia is a Malaysian organisation focused on education, training, and workforce development. With over a decade of experience, the company continues to create impactful learning solutions tailored to today’s evolving industries and career landscapes.

To expand its regional presence, the company established GKK India in 2023. The India-based entity supports strategic partnerships, offers customised training and workforce solutions tailored to the Malaysian market, as well as facilitates global immersion programs, student exchange and placement between both countries.

About IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation (IITMPTF):

Headquartered in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, IITM Pravartak Technologies Foundation (IITMPTF) is a section 08 Company housing the Technology Innovation Hub on Sensors, Networking, Actuators, and Control Systems (SNACS). It is committed to transforming the frontiers of knowledge. Its start-up ecosystem is the nurturing space of brilliant professionals, innovative entrepreneurs, curious young talents, and inquisitive students. With world-class infrastructure, equipment, and experienced mentors, IITMPTF has everything to offer for the technology-hungry brains.

IITM Pravartak is funded by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, under its National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems, and hosted as a Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) by IIT Madras.

The NM-ICPS is a comprehensive Mission aimed at complete convergence with all stakeholders by establishing strong linkages between academia, industry, Government, and International Organizations.



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