

MGT PROGRAMME

5,500 GLOBAL LEADERS BY 2022

First phase will gather 12 top MNCs and 10 public universities

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday launched the Malaysia Global Talent (MGT) programme, an initiative in line with the government's ongoing efforts to make Malaysia a global hub for multinational company (MNC) investments.

The programme, which is a collaboration between Talent Corp Malaysia Bhd (TalentCorp) and InvestKL Corp (InvestKL) and supported by the Higher Education Ministry, aims to nurture

5,500 Malaysians to be global leaders by 2022.

"The first phase of MGT will bring together 12 top MNCs and 10 public universities with the singular goal of creating leaders of tomorrow. This will soon be further extended to more MNCs and universities," said Najib at the MGT launch during InvestKL's 2018 ministerial event, here, yesterday.

"The MGT will also drive the setup of multiple world-class centres of excellence as a collaborative venture between industry and academia. I have every confidence that MGT will be a huge success and an inspiration for



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the InvestKL's annual ministerial event 2018 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him are (from left) InvestKL Corp chief executive officer Datuk Zainal Amanshah, InvestKL chairman Datuk Seri Michael Yam and other officials. PIC BY SYARAFIQ ABD SAMAD

similar collaboration," he added.

InvestKL chief executive officer (CEO) Datuk Zainal Amanshah said there was a need to grow the supply of good young local professionals as more MNCs made way here.

"As of last year, InvestKL has been successful at creating almost 11,000 high-skilled regional jobs. As such, there is a growing need to broaden the supply of good young professionals and meet the demands of the MNCs here," he said.

"The MGT will be able to develop Malaysian talent as strong leaders who will drive the country's economic progress, which in turn attracts global companies to establish presence in Malaysia."

TalentCorp CEO Shareen Shariza Abdul Ghani said the scale of MNC capabilities, development, knowledge-sharing and best practices would prepare local workforce for the future of work.

The MGT programme is divided into three groups, namely

young executive, senior executive and apprenticeship.

It offers Malaysians opportunities such as secondment, internships, mentorship programmes and knowledge-sharing with chief personalities from multiple MNCs.

Among the participating MNCs in the first phase are Schlumberger, Linde, Honeywell, IBM and Cargill, with participating universities – Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Heriot-Watt University.

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

InvestKL on track to attract 100 MNCs by 2020

KUALA LUMPUR: InvestKL Corp Sdn Bhd (InvestKL), a government agency aimed at drawing foreign investment, is on track to attract 100 multinational companies (MNCs) by 2020.

Chief executive officer Datuk Zainal Amanshah said InvestKL had successfully attracted 12 MNCs last year, exceeding its annual target of 10, pushing the total to 73 MNCs in seven years since its establishment.

"With the 12 MNCs, InvestKL has successfully attracted 73 MNCs with approved and committed investments of RM11.07 billion, as well as the creation of more than 10,971 regional high-skilled jobs since 2011," he said at a briefing, here, yesterday.

"These 73 MNCs accounted for 73 per cent of InvestKL's 2020 mandate of 100 MNCs. As such, we are on track to meet the target."

According to Zainal, this year's

10 MNCs would most likely be those that had strong presence in the digital space, in line with Malaysia's goal of becoming a substantial player in the 4th Industrial Revolution.

"These MNCs would most likely have access to digital space and advanced technologies, Internet of Things or Industries 4.0 technologies, such as artificial intelligence, big data analytics and cyber securities," he said.

"The creation of the Digital Free Trade Zone (DFTZ) will also help us achieve the goal... Although the DFTZ was created to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs), it is also very attractive to MNCs."

Zainal cautioned that InvestKL

expected this year to be more challenging than last year due to ongoing external issues.

"We are seeing possible corporate tax cuts in the United States causing the MNCs there to adopt a wait-and-see strategy. We also see an impact from Brexit and European Union's (EU) policies.

"The ongoing trade wars between the US, China and EU will also have spillovers impact on us in attracting these new MNCs," he said.

Notable investments last year included Fortune 500 MNCs such as gases technologies firm Air Liquide, global insurer AXA and flavours and fragrances firm Givaudan.

Others that have established re-



Datuk Zainal Amanshah

BY YEAR-END

Bank Islam aims to issue 50,000 Visa-BAM cards

KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd targets to issue 50,000 new Visa debit cards by year-end under its latest co-branding effort with the Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM).

Chief executive officer Khairul Kamarudin said the bank had 3.2 million co-brand debit cardholders nationwide. The partnership with BAM marks Bank Islam's 16th co-branding effort.

"The BAM card is part of Bank Islam's strategy in expanding its financial inclusion reach to sports enthusiasts nationwide.

"It is our mission to assist Bank Negara Malaysia realise its aspiration of building a cashless society," he said at the launch of the card, here, yesterday. **Bernama**

gional hubs here over the years are PPG Industries (from the US), SK Mobility (South Korea), Allianz (Germany) and Veolia (France).

"Investments from all these MNCs have created ripple effects across all sectors of the economy, with the real estate sector in particular having gained an estimated RM49.4 million in new office space rentals since 2011.

"Local companies and SMEs have also benefited as partnerships with MNCs have enabled them to compete on a global field while working on several international projects," said Zainal.

In the last seven years till last year, RM4.5 billion, or 41 per cent of the RM11.07 billion, had been realised with 5,831 (53 per cent) of the 10,971 high-skilled regional jobs are on the payroll. Of these, 80 per cent are Malaysians with an average annual income of RM114,676. **Lidiana Rosli**