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Malaysia Well on Way to Web3.0?

Symposium on semantics technology held by Catherine Yong

Malaysia might very well skip Web2.0 and go straight to Web3.0, if MIMOS has anything to say about it. The organisation which pursues exploratory and industry-driven applied research via multi-stakeholder smart partnerships with universities, the Government and research institutes is now setting its sights upon the semantic Web, as the next frontier technology to explore.

Its focus right now is to transfer MIMOS developed semantic technology platforms to the local industries like business and financials, agriculture, medical, automotive and public safety. To this end it has established a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Semantic Technology, in collaboration with local and foreign institutions of higher learning and industry players, with hopes to eventually automate the collection, modeling, organisation and retrieval of knowledge.

MIMOS partners in the area of Semantics include foreign universities and organizations such as German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), Germany; KNOW-CENTRE, University Technology Graz, Austria; Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong; University Montpellier II, France; University of Calgary, Canada; Franz Inc., USA; Vivomind Inc., USA; and Knowledge Networks Inc, Australia.

On the local front, MIMOS collaborates with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) in Semantics technology and has also established a joint research lab at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS),

working specifically with its Faculty of Computing Science and Information Technology on Language Technology production initiatives for commercialisation of language-based technology.

All this culminated in a MIMOS Semantics Symposium themed Future of Semantics Technology, held in middle October which drew in over 100 participants from the Government, industry and also academia sector. It served to disseminate insights and first-hand knowledge about the technology, as well as give updates of future directions by renowned North American and European domain experts in research and commercialisation of the technology.

Speakers at the symposium consisted of renowned domain experts including:

- Professor John Sowa of Vivomind Inc. USA;
- Professor Klaus Tochtermann of Know Centre, Tugraz, Austria; Dr Sheng-Chuan Wu of Franz Inc. USA
- Professor Brian Garner of Knowledge Networks Inc. Australia

The Semantics Symposium was organised by the Centre of Excellence in Semantic Technology led by MIMOS Head of Knowledge Technology Cluster, Dr. Dickson Lukose.

Semantics is the study of meaning; while Semantic Technologies include software standards and methodologies that are aimed at providing more explicit meaning for the information at one's disposal. When computers can achieve a higher degree of "understanding" of the informa-

tion they process, users are better equipped to navigate

the vast amount of digital information.



Halim Shafie (above) and Dr. Dickson Lukose.

