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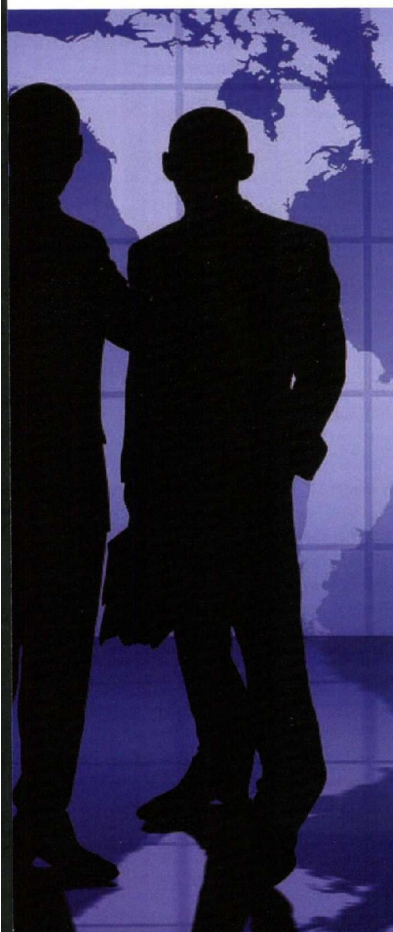


Section Editor:  
**Mior Azhar**  
mior@beritapub.com.my

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# EXCITING TIMES AHEAD: 2012 TECHNOLOGY LEADERS



mb-e's 12 tech personalities most likely to help shape the Malaysian technological landscape in 2012.

By **MIOR AZHAR**

**M**alaysia's information and communications technology (ICT) sector and biotechnology market space are set to continue to be among the key industries that will radically overhaul the country's economy in the next one year.

After all, policy makers have identified both sectors as catalysts for national growth and development. This focus has led to increase investment nationwide in science parks, cyber security initiatives and high-speed broadband infrastructure.

As we usher in the New Year, industries executives are confronting a profoundly changing market, characterised by increasing complexity and less room for error and inefficiency.

Therefore, having the right leader in place — one who can identify the winning path and successfully lead the organisation along that path — is more important than ever.



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## Lead Story



### 1. DATUK MOHAMED SHARIL TARMIZI – CHAIRMAN, THE MALAYSIAN COMMUNICATION AND MULTIMEDIA COMMISSION (MCMC)

Sharil was appointed as chairman of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) effective 16 October 2011.

Going into 2012, coverage, the quality of service and rural connectivity are not the only things on Sharil's plate. He also has a whole list of things to do such as decisions on spectrum allocation digital broadcasting migration and the usage of the universal service provision fund.



### 3. DATUK SERI ZAMZAMAIRANI MOHD ISA – GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TELEKOM MALAYSIA

Zamzamraini, who was named Pikom's 2011 ICT Personality of The Year, has had a good run last year.

And a high-speed broadband (HSBB) service will definitely figure high up in his agenda this year as TM rolls out to more exchange areas. Its HSBB's Unifi has surpassed its year-end subscriber base target of 200,000 from the 77 coverage areas but analysts consider this still not up to mark.



### 5. DATUK ABDUL WAHAB ABDULLAH – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MIMOS BHD

Under Wahab's leadership since 2008, MIMOS, the premier applied research centre in frontier technologies has achieved numerous achievements.

Wahab is definitely bracing for an even bigger challenges in 2012 especially with the General Election set to be held this year. This is because the Parliamentary Select Committee's (PSC) has approved of MIMOS Bhd's role and responsibility to verify the electoral roll and clean the voters list.



### 2. DATUK BADLISHAM GHAZALI – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MDEC).

For the New Year, Badlisham and his team will, among others, be striving for Intellectual Property (IP) rights to be accepted as assets or collateral through the IP valuation model which is set to be introduced in the first quarter of this year.

The ultimate goal of the IP valuation initiative is for IP rights to be recognised by financial institutions as an asset that can be put up as collateral

He is also to play a more pivotal role in promoting Malaysian companies.



### 4. JOEL NEOH – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, Groupon MALAYSIA

Neoh, a 28-year old mechanical engineering graduate, founded Groupsmore in 2010.

In early 2011, the company became the country's poster child when it was acquired by US-based Groupon, currently the world's largest player in the daily deals space.

Despite facing increasing competition from other e-commerce companies in the country, Neoh successfully made Groupon a household name in Malaysia.

It will be interesting to see how the local daily deals space pan out in 2012 with Neoh and Groupon Malaysia leading the way.



### 6. CC PUAN – MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO, GREEN PACKET BHD

Puan and his team has a huge bumpy challenge ahead. After reporting yet another loss-making quarter, the company's 2011 third-quarter results recently, Puan pledges that Green Packet aims to report profits by the second half of this year.

Puan says the company could post a profit for 2013 on condition that it registered positive net additions in subscribers for every month next year.

To be fair, Green Packet has seen improvements of late and has narrowed its losses since a year ago.



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### 7. WOON TAI HAI - CHAIRMAN, PIKOM (THE NATIONAL ICT ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIA)

The new PIKOM chairman realises that he is taking up the mantle in rather difficult global economic times.

However, against this 'not so cosy' backdrop – as he puts it – Woon plans to carry on and build on various initiatives embarked by the previous Pikom council, as well as add new activities.

Pikom is also relocating to its own premises in Damansara Perdana to serve members better.

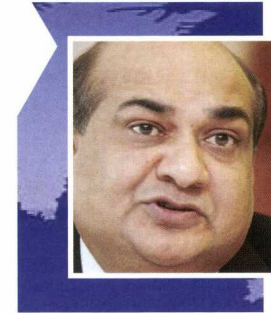


### 9. HENRIK CLAUSEN - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER DIGI.COM BHD

Clausen aims to continue creating the right experience for Digi consumers in 2012.

By end 2012, the third largest telco in Malaysia would have swapped 5,000 sites with new equipment and that in itself will give users a better experience when they use their devices to access Internet.

And by then Digi 3G coverage would have increased to 70% from 52% currently.



### 11. SANDIP DAS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MAXIS BHD

As the leader in the market, Maxis Bhd is surely not slowing down anytime soon.

Das, and his team are in for more exciting development in 2012 – again.

For instance, Maxis entered into a deal with U Mobile Sdn Bhd in October, for an initial period of 10 years, to share its 3G radio access networks. On this, Sandip says Maxis is expected revenue of at least RM1 billion over the next five years.



### 8. DATUK DR MOHD NAZLEE KAMAL - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MALAYSIAN BIOTECHNOLOGY CORP SDN BHD

The new Biotech Corp CEO is going into 2012 armed with a Bio-Technology Venture Fund worth RM317.63 million to further boost the country's biotech industry.

However, Nazlee still needs to work around the pressing issues currently enveloping the biotech industry such as that no venture capital companies really have the expertise to do a due diligence process for biotech companies.

He is also looking for investments from foreign companies to invest in green chemical production.



### 10. DATUK SRI MOHAMMED SHAZALLI BIN RAMLY - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CELCOM AXIATA BHD

Having signed a partnership agreement with Broadcast Australia late last year, the company aims to bid for the design, construction and long-term operation of the digital television infrastructure project, which would be a nationwide digital TV transmission network.

Shazalli believes that if the bid is successful, it would help the company to achieve the 50% revenue contribution by 2015. Currently, the telco's revenue comes from data and solutions (30%) and voice (70%).



### 12. DR KAIZAD HEERJEE - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER U MOBILE SDN BHD

U Mobile Sdn Bhd's major service disruption late last year raises concerns about the stability of its network but Kaizad has gone on record assuring that plans are in place to avoid future recurrences.

For that, this year would see Kaizad and his team redoubling their efforts to rebuild customers confidence in U Mobile.

The telco is looking to add one million new subscribers every year by rolling out new products and services especially from its partnership with Maxis. **mb-e**