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Ministry pushes for industry`s increased AI and tech adoption

The Star (Metro South and East), Malaysia

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THE International Trade and Industry Ministry (Miti) has called on industry players to increase mechanisation and automation to enhance productivity in line with Industry 4.0.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Darell Leiking said the ministry and its technology-based agencies were doing the necessary in providing the foundation to accelerate technology adoption by industry via smart partnerships.

In announcing key milestones of "Industry4WRD", the national policy on Industry 4.0 as it completed one full year of implementation at the end last month, Darell said Miti was aware that the industry, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs), were more inclined towards doing business through traditional ways; some of them might have avoided adoption of high technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and big data due to the higher cost.

Darell said the Centre of Artificial Intelligence for Future Industry (CAIFI), which had been in existence since March this year, was aimed at building an AI eco-system for the Malaysian industry to move into Industry 4.0.

CAIFI is hosted by national research and development agency, Mimos. At the same event, Darell launched Biz4WRD, a web-based portal that provides an AI- and data analytics-based manufacturing ecosystem dashboard as well as industry intelligence for companies and investors.

Another ongoing initiative under CAIFI is the Smart Manufacturing Intelligent Service Platform (SMISP) – an operational technology and information technology shared services infrastructure that enables the adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies such as AI, big data analytics, Internet of things and augmented reality, with the aim of enhancing company capa-bilities and improving productivity.

Darell said the inclusion of Standards Malaysia, Sirim and Mimos under Miti, together with Malaysia Automotive Robotics and IoT Institute (MARii) and Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) had strengthened Miti's position as the leading ministry in driving industries towards enhanced productivity and higher yields via technology adoption.

Themed "Accelerating Transformation towards Smart Manufacturing", Industry4WRD Summit 2019 was held at the Malaysia Interna-tional Trade and Exhibition Centre.

The two-day event was aimed at updating the business ecosystem on initiatives related to the national Industry 4.0 policy, and encourage its adoption by industry players, particularly SMEs.

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SUMMARIES

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