



# Industry 4.0 policy launch on Oct 31

*The Industry 4.0 policy will induce the creation of quality 'jobs of the future'*

by NUR HAZIQAH A MALEK

THE National Industry 4.0 policy, which is expected to create a platform for the country to transition into a more technologically advanced, open and high-income economy that is able to compete globally, will be launched on Oct 31, 2018.

International Trade and Industry Deputy Minister Dr Ong Kian Ming said the ministry and several key ministries have developed the policy, which would also induce the creation of quality "jobs of the future", in consultation with various stakeholders and key industries.

"In a nutshell, this policy was developed with four specific overarching goals, namely to drive growth in manufacturing sector's GDP, increase national productivity, create higher skill employment opportunities and raise innovation capabilities and competitiveness," he said at the launch of Asia Centre of Excellence for Smart Technology (ACES) in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.



(From left) Issace John, Ong, IJM Corp CEO/MD Datuk Soam Heng Choon and UMP deputy vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mashitah Mohd Yusoff during Malaysia-Bavaria Trade and Investment Cooperation signing ceremony in Kuala Lumpur yesterday

He said the government will continuously engage with stakeholders during the policy's implementation stage.

"This is to ensure that all Malaysians can share equitably in the economic benefits of this transition towards Industry 4.0," he said.

ACES is established by the East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC) and TUM International GmbH as the first Industry 4.0 competency centre in the region, in line with the government's Industry 4.0 goals.

"It will be located at the Cybercentre in Pahang Technology Park, its staffing has

already been identified as well," he said.

ECERDC CEO Datuk Seri Jebasingam Issace John said RM12 million has been allocated for the centre's building and facilities.

"The centre will begin operations in January next year. It will provide Industry 4.0 certification, advisory, consulting and training services on smart technologies and practices in Malaysia, the Asean region, as well as the Asia-Pacific markets.

"It will drive efforts to upskill the local talent pool for future jobs, especially in Industry 4.0-related careers in digital

and automation," he said.

ACES' partners include IJM Corp Bhd, Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park Sdn Bhd, Kuantan Port Consortium, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and Siemens Malaysia.

He added that while continuing to build ECER's competencies for Industry 4.0, the council will be working together with the Malaysian Investment Development Authority and Malaysia-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"We want to attract further investment with a greater emphasis on higher value-

added and technology-intensive industries.

"These efforts are part of our strategy to move the nation up the economic value chain from an input-based economy to a productivity-driven economy," he said.

Meanwhile, German Ambassador to Malaysia Nikolaus Graf Lambsdorff said around four automotive companies are interested in expanding their business and increase production in Malaysia Sdn Bhd.

"They are also looking at places to expand in the neighbouring countries, and to date, I have not received any official proposals or enquiries of interest from them to join the third national car project," he said.

Ong said the government is open to any German car companies to explore opportunities in the third national car project.

"However, an announcement would be made in the future if there have been any proposals made by these automakers," he said.

The Malaysian Reserve recently reported that the government had received 14 proposals from the private sector to develop the proposed third national car project, while the government is currently reviewing the National Automotive Policy.