
PRESS RELEASE
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Malaysia - U.S. Smart Cities Symposium 2019: Sustainable Digital Transformation of Malaysia's Urban Systems

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20, 2019 – The American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) and the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, brought together business leaders, policymakers from both Malaysian and U.S. government, and Smart City representatives from Kuala Lumpur, Johor Bahru, Selangor, Cyberjaya and Melaka for the Malaysia - U.S. Smart Cities Symposium 2019 held this morning at the Four Seasons Hotel Kuala Lumpur.

We were honored to have H.E. Kamala Shirin Lakhtdir, the U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia and YBrs. En. Al-Ishal Bin Ishak, Chairman at Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) to launch the first Malaysia - U.S. Smart Cities Symposium..

With intelligent cities at the forefront of the next wave of the Internet of Things, Malaysia's urban centers have the opportunity to apply these emerging technologies and make huge strides forward in resource management, big data analytics, and the employment of applications that drive greater efficiencies and support a smarter way of life. Today's joint forum addresses what goes into making a smart city 'smart'.

Building a Smart City is a collective effort. It should not only be the sole responsibility of government but should arise through synergies between businesses, civil society and policymakers. The Symposium also seeks to challenge the myth that smart city solutions are exclusively for the benefit of the most developed cities with the greatest resources. While municipal and local governments have to work within their budgetary constraints, it is possible to identify some low-hanging fruits that have dramatic positive impacts for urban areas that adopt them.

Four Malaysian cities have been selected as participants in the new US- ASEAN Smart City Partnership: Kota Kinabalu, Kuching, Johor Bahru, and Kuala Lumpur. Delegates from some of these cities will in July travel to the U.S. to participate in knowledge exchange and smart city thought leadership programs as part of the

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Partnership.

“American companies are at the forefront of many types of smart city solutions. , Among our 270 member companies alone, we have a wide range of expertise in areas such as information communications technology, cloud services, advanced digital engineering and modeling, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, smart forms of construction and sustainable design, or smart city planning and financing”

“By bringing together various public and private stakeholders to share ideas and best practices, we hope that this joint program between the Chamber and the Embassy can serve as a platform through which new partnerships can be formed. We need to work together to find a pathway through which ideas to bring Malaysia’s urban areas towards ‘smart’ status can be realized, `` said Siobhan Das, Executive Director of AMCHAM.

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ABOUT AMCHAM MALAYSIA

The American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) was founded in 1978 as an international, non-profit, private-sector business association. It comprises of more than 1000 members representing about 260 American, Malaysian and other international companies with strong ties to American business. The Chamber is a member of the Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC).

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