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THE biggest challenge in embracing digital technology is people's mindset towards it, said Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) chief operating officer Datuk Ng Wan Peng.

Digital transformation requires individuals who want to make a change, she said.

"You may have all the tools but if you don't believe in it, then it will be hard.

"Digital transformation is about using limitless technology in the most effective way to change the way we deliver a service.

"About 33% of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Malaysia adopt digital technology; a lot more needs to be done.

"If we are able to get everyone to adopt digital technology, we should be able to increase our GDP contribution to the country by about RM400bil," she added.

Ng was one of the three speakers at the first International Conference on Digital Transformation and Applications (ICDXA 2020).

It was organised by and held at Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC).

The ICDXA aims to bridge the gap between industry and academia experts, practitioners and researchers into a single platform to address common problems, share research

## Embracing digital technology



Lee (middle) launches the International Conference on Digital Transformation and Applications held at TAR UC while Lim (right) looks on.

outcomes and discuss industry research needs.

The three-day event covered workshops on the latest information technologies used in the fourth Industrial Revolution and the development of digital innovation and applications.

She said that the corporation started its talent programme in 2005, which focused on tertiary education.

"After many years, we realised that if students' fundamentals aren't strong and if they are not interested in Science, Technology,

tant, Ng said it is equally vital to recognise that not every student is interested in STEM fields.

She urged more universities to link their students with SMEs.

Students can later stay on as employees or begin their practical experience by working on real-world projects, she added.

Huawei chief marketing officer Neo Teck Guan, another speaker at the conference, said by 2025, all countries and industries will be powered by the new confluence.

In his keynote speech, he described the new confluence as the combined concept of the 5G technology, cloud network, Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence technology.

"It is regarded as a revolutionary technology that will transform society and civilisation," he added.

"Among these technologies, the cloud system is the centre of the work.

"Be it the 5G technology, real-time decision-making, age intelligence or large transmission capacity, you would need a large computing power with strong elasticity to store and support it.

"This is where the Cloud system comes in," he explained.

He shared Huawei's involvement in the field, presenting examples of

past experiences using the uniqueness of this technology to create new forms of experience, application and industry.

"We are working with industries to expand the 5G technology.

"The new confluence has a huge impact in the industry.

"These include changing the work process of certain industries as it matures and improving the intelligence in the industry, shaping a future of limitless possibilities," he added.

TAR UC president Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei said as an education institution, he wants to equip his students with digital knowledge and awareness on technology.

These include artificial intelligence and cloud computing.

"This is so they not only use technology but create value from it.

"The ICDXA 2020 is a good opportunity for our students to showcase their ideas and expose them and our staff members to industry professionals.

"It's to also help staff and students know the industry's current trends, and for the latter to understand better what we are doing in universities to meet their human resource demand," he said.

There are plans, he added, to make the conference an annual event.

ICDXA organising chairman Prof Dr Lim Tong Ming said it is aiming to hold the second conference in TAR UC in 2021.