

## Tapping Into Young Minds for Industrial Success



A screengrab of the organisers and collaborators during the virtual media conference on the 1st International Youth Conference 2021

THE 1st International Youth Conference (IYC) 2021 that will take place virtually via Zoom on Nov 13 has issued a call for papers from youths aged 15 to 35 worldwide. Prospective participants are required to submit original and unpublished works relating to the theme 'The Role of Youth in the Era of Industry 4.0' for publication or presentation at the conference. All submissions will be subject to peer review. Accepted ones will be published in an e book by event organiser Penang Youth Development Corporation (PYDC), complete with ISBN number.

There will be Best Poster and Best Paper Awards with a RM1,000 cash prize each, along with 30 Best Presenter Awards with RM200 each besides e-certificates. The deadline for abstract submission is Sept 17, with full papers due by Oct 20. Registrations and payments are to be done by Oct 31. Visit [www.pydc.com.my/iyc2021](http://www.pydc.com.my/iyc2021) for full details on submission criteria, fees and suggested topics. Participants also have the option of publishing their papers on selected international refereed journals.



Soon showing a poster of the upcoming conference.

This was announced in a virtual media conference recently attended by Penang youth and sports committee chairman Soon Lip Chee, PYDC general manager Dr Gwee Sai Ling and other key collaborators. Soon described youths as society's greatest assets and future. And with the world evolving at an unprecedented rate due to Industry 4.0, keeping our young leaders ahead of the game will be hugely beneficial.

“According to the World Bank, Malaysia is on track to become a developed country between 2024 and 2028. Penang has a major role to play as one of the biggest GDP contributors to the country.

“As we gear towards a post-pandemic world, we need to continue focusing on the development of our human capital in line with Industry 4.0. Our youths have to be ready to embrace and be a part of this revolution.

“Only if we are up for it, will we be able to reap the benefits of these opportunities,” Soon said, adding that events like the IYC are great platforms for information and knowledge exchange. Echoing those sentiments, Dr Gwee stressed that youths need to get ready, be able to cope and adapt to new and emerging technologies which transform the type of work people do, and how work is done.

“It is undeniable that Industry 4.0 offers new opportunities. However, many in the workforce today are left behind and this has led to growing concern among industries. “We need new approaches, new frameworks and new strategies to strengthen and enhance the capacity of youth so they play more significant roles in driving the nation’s economy forward.

“We welcome youths, young researchers and professionals from all corners of the world to participate in this conference. Take this opportunity to interact and build networks for future collaborations,” she added. The virtual conference will run from 8.30am to 2.30pm.

Following opening addresses by Soon, Dr Gwee and Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow, there will be a trio of keynote speeches. The speakers are Morgan State University (Maryland, USA) professor Dr Krishna Bista, O.P Jindal Global University (India) Associate Professor Dr Mousumi Mukherjee and International Youth Center Malaysia director Dr Mohamed Maliki Mohamed Rapiee. IYC 2021 is organised in collaboration with 11 partner institutions and organisations — namely Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), UNITAR International University (UNITAR), Universiti Kolej Han Chiang (HCUC), Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TARUC), Penang Skills Development Center (PSDC), SEGi College Penang (SEGi), Batu Lanchang Vocational College (BLVC), Persatuan Pengurusan Perniagaan & Projek Antarabangsa (AIBPM), Rangkaian StarScholars (SSN), Tech Dome Penang and Big Domain.



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