

Malaysia Board of Technologist (MBOT) Strategic Technology Field Optimization Workshop



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Venue: WP Hotel, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia Board of Technologist (MBOT) recently held a Strategic Technology Field Optimization (STFO) Workshop with participants from a wide range of industries. The main agenda for this workshop was to refine the technology field definition, technology field optimization and analysing the future technology profession in Malaysia as well as defining the assessment for professional technologist and certified technicians. Apart from the organizing secretariat, the workshop was attended by industrial experts, academicians, various ministries handling technical and vocational studies in Malaysia as well industrial professional bodies. IMM was represented by the Honorary Secretary, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Melissa Chan from Universiti Teknologi MARA; and Council Member and the Welding Committee Deputy Chair, Dr. Mohamed Ackiel Mohamed from Serba Dinamik Group Bhd.

The first day was mostly spent on updating and refining the definition of 21 technology fields currently short-listed by MBOT. The first session started with the participants being divided into various groups with each group being assigned to 4 technology fields. They were then asked to update potential industry or organizations that MBOT should engage with in order to develop the respective technology fields. Topics such as updating the current talent supply and demand data and how MBOT can get to assist its members' on talent development was also deliberately discussed. The outcome of each group was then presented and discussed in detail.



Figure 1: STFO Participant's engaging in groups discussion



Figure 2: Group discussion (Dr. Mohamed Ackiel Mohamed – left; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Melissa Chan Chin Han – right)

The second day was mostly spent on identifying and setting the professional development for MBOT's CPD, courses needed for assessment as well as the related law or legislation that can help MBOT to grow and expand the respective technology field. Although the participants had to face long hours of intense discussions, everybody seemed to be in high spirits to charter a new pathway for technologists in Malaysia. The discussion lasted throughout the day, and after a well-deserved dinner break, the night session was consumed on getting feedback for MySET's research on Future Technology Profession in Malaysia as well as identifying how MBOT's existence can be a catalyst to the future technology professions. Although originally scheduled to finish at 9.30 pm, the discussion was so intense and interesting that it finished only at 11.30 pm.

The third day was dedicated to finalising all the findings and having a dialogue session with the president of MBOT, Tan Sri Dr Ts. Ahmad Zaidee Laidin. Arriving at 9.30 am, the president gave an inspiring speech. He went down memory lane and recalled the moments when he was called by the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) to define the word "Engineering" in Malaysia's context almost 60 years ago. He continued his speech in appreciation of all the participants for their role in the workshop and said that, some day, the nation will look back at all the names that once helped define and charter the path for Technologists in Malaysia. The output of this workshop will be published into a booklet and Guide for MBOT's technology Fields. The day ended with a group photography session and lunch. Regardless of the fatigue faced by the participants throughout the workshop, their faces were filled with excitement, happiness and contentment with the final findings and achievements of the SFTO workshop. Kudos to MBOT for organizing a very well thought and organized workshop.



Figure 3: Participants posing with the MBOT president for a group photo session