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13 – 15.5.2026

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), Malaysia

Beyond automation: Your roadmap for human-centric digital transformation

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IMKL2026: Turning Vision into Value

Discover how industry strategies and bold visions can be transformed into practical, results-driven outcomes for manufacturers and industry leaders.

From AI and ROI frameworks to intelligent robotics, 5G adoption, and closing the digital skills gap, IMKL2026 brings together global expertise and regional insights to address the most pressing challenges in manufacturing digitalisation.

Be part of the 4th edition of this leading regional conference and gain actionable knowledge to make digitalisation practical, scalable, and impactful for your business.

2025 Key figures

2,164 visits
66% are decision-makers

357 conference attendees

23 speakers from 9 countries and regions (China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Singapore, Switzerland and the United States)

19 conference sessions,
4 breakout sessions and
21 Tech Lab sessions

19 product showcases from 6 countries and regions
(Australia, Germany, Malaysia, Singapore, Switzerland and the United States)

Scan for attendees profile in 2025

Beyond automation: Your roadmap for human-centric digital transformation

Day 1 **13.5.2026**	**Future of Manufacturing** As the opening track of IMKL, Future of Manufacturing sets the stage for the two-day conference. It explores the concepts and innovations driving this transformation, connects global perspectives with ASEAN priorities, and lays the foundation for deeper discussions on Industry 5.0. This track invites delegates to envision manufacturing as a collaborative, adaptive, and human-centered journey.
09:15 – 09:30	**Opening gimmick by Technical Consultants and Mr Robot** Kick off IMKL 2026 with fresh insights, lively conversation—and a surprise you won't want to miss. Breaking away from traditional formats, our conference advisors will open the event with a dynamic talk show that sets the tone for the two-day journey. Together, they will share perspectives on the theme "Beyond Automation: Your Roadmap for Human-Centric Digital Transformation," creating a lively and memorable start that sparks curiosity and excitement for what lies ahead.
09:30 – 10:00	**Keynote:** **20 Years Smart Factory - From Smart Machines to Worldwide Ecosystems** *Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Zuehlke,* *ret. Professor for Innovative Factory Systems, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), and Honorary Executive Board Member, smartfactory-KL e.V. Kaiserslautern/Germany* This keynote traces the milestones of smart factory development: from modular "LEGO brick" interoperability and digital twins to the rise of service-based communication standards. Looking ahead, Prof. Zuehlke explores how AI and generative AI will orchestrate supply chains and adaptive production in real time, while cybersecurity and human responsibility remain decisive. The session underscores the importance of equipping both young and experienced workers with interdisciplinary skills to thrive in a dynamic, IT-driven manufacturing world.
10:00 – 10:25	**Declaring Industry 5.0: Unlocking the Power of Human-Centric Digital Transformation** *Dr Dominic Gorecky,* *Head of Swiss Smart Factory & Swiss Health Tech Center, Partner, Executive Board Member, Switzerland, Innovation Park Biel/Bienne AG* This session declares Industry 5.0 as the new paradigm shaping global manufacturing, where the focus moves beyond automation to human-machine collaboration, sustainability, and resilience. It will explore how this transformation is already influencing industries worldwide, with particular attention to ASEAN and Malaysia's evolving role in the global value chain. By framing the opportunities and challenges of this new era, the session sets the stage for the following panel discussion on whether ASEAN manufacturers are truly ready to embrace Industry 5.0.
COFFEE BREAK	
10:55 - 11:10	**Benchmarking ASEAN's Digital Readiness: Insights from Real-life Assessments** *Jesmond Hong,* *Chief Operating Officer, International Centre for Industrial Transformation (INCIT)* This session presents fresh regional data on ASEAN manufacturers' digital maturity, highlighting Malaysia's position within the broader landscape. The insights provide a clear baseline for understanding where industry players stand today and set the stage for the panel discussion on Industry 5.0 readiness.

11:10 - 11:55	**Panel discussion:** **Are ASEAN Manufacturers Ready for Industry 5.0?** *Moderator: Dr Chua Wen-Shyan,* *Head of Malaysian Smart Factory 4.0, Selangor Human Resource Development Centre (SHRDC)* *Panel speakers:* *Jesmond Hong,* *Chief Operating Officer, International Centre for Industrial Transformation (INCIT)* *Sakthivel Narayanasamy,* *Chairman, Quantum Computing (M) Sdn Bhd* *Vincent Chong,* *Plant Manager, Steelcase Manufacturing Malaysia* As ASEAN manufacturers stand at the threshold of Industry 5.0, the question is no longer if but how they will embrace human-centric, sustainable, and digitally empowered transformation. This panel will explore Malaysia's readiness alongside regional peers, unpacking both the challenges and opportunities that define the path forward. Delegates will gain insights into where industry players are today—and what it will take to position ASEAN as a global leader in the next era of manufacturing.
Day 1 **13.5.2026**	**Global trends in manufacturing digitalisation** This track highlights the enabling technologies driving the next wave of transformation. It provides delegates with a deep dive into key innovations, connects global breakthroughs with ASEAN realities, and concludes with collaborative breakout sessions to address common obstacles. Participants are able to explore how digitalisation can move from vision to practice, equipping manufacturers to thrive in an era of intelligent, technology-driven ecosystems.
11:55 – 12:20	**Innovation & New Business Models - Reimagining Value: How Daikin Malaysia Transformed Through Digitalisation** *Cowen Hoo Kok Hon,* *General Manager, Daikin Malaysia* This session explores the strategic evolution of Daikin Malaysia as a localised benchmark for the next wave of industrial transformation. We begin by sharing our transformation journey, demonstrating how digital integration has redefined value across our production ecosystems. The discussion then pivots to the role of Key Enabling Technologies (KETs)—including AI-driven optimization and digital twins—in driving these outcomes. Attendees will gain a unique perspective on how global manufacturing trends are successfully localized in Malaysia to build resilience, optimise resources, and create new, sustainable business models that move beyond traditional automation.
12:20 – 12:40	**Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) for the Future of Manufacturing: Roadmaps & Platforms** *Prof Dr David Romero,* *Scientific Vice-Chairman, World Manufacturing Foundation and Professor of Advanced Manufacturing, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico* Presented by the World Manufacturing Foundation (WMF), this session highlights the frontier technologies driving the next wave of industrial transformation. From advanced materials and additive manufacturing to AI, digital twins, robotics, and the Industrial Internet of Things, these Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) are reshaping productivity, resilience, and sustainability across factories and supply chains. Drawing on the latest global roadmaps and platforms, the 2025 World Manufacturing Report offers strategic insights into adoption pathways, skills development, and policy frameworks. Delegates will gain a clear view of how embracing KETs can strengthen competitiveness and prepare industries to navigate disruptions while building smarter, more sustainable ecosystems.
LUNCH	
14:00 – 14:20	**From Reactive to Proactive: AI Agents Shaping The Future of Manufacturing** *Dr Chua Wen-Shyan,* *Head of Malaysian Smart Factory 4.0, Selangor Human Resource Development Centre (SHRDC)* As manufacturing faces increasing complexity and volatility, AI agents are emerging as powerful enablers of predictive decision-making, adaptive production, and resilient supply chains. This session explores how AI agents move factories from reactive problem-solving to proactive intelligence—anticipating disruptions, optimizing processes in real time, and strengthening competitiveness. Delegates will gain insights into how these digital actors are reshaping the future of manufacturing and accelerating the global digitalisation journey.

13.5.2026	Global trends in manufacturing digitalisation
14:20 - 14:40	**Intelligent Robotics: From Enabling Technologies to Human-Centric Machines** *Laurent Maillefer,* *Vice President - Robotics & Discrete Automation - Malaysia, ABB Malaysia Sdn Bhd* Robotics is where enabling technologies meet the factory floor. This session explores how advances in AI, digital twins, and predictive analytics are converging to create intelligent, adaptive robots that extend human capabilities and reshape manufacturing ecosystems. By bridging frontier technologies with real-world applications, the discussion sets the stage for deeper dives into polyfunctional robotics and humanoid robot development—highlighting how these innovations will redefine productivity, collaboration, and sustainability in global manufacturing.
14:40 – 15:25	**Panel discussion:** **Building Sustainable Manufacturing Ecosystems: Global Lessons, ASEAN Opportunities** *Moderator: Prof Dr David Romero,* *Scientific Vice-Chairman, World Manufacturing Foundation and Professor of Advanced Manufacturing, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico* *Panel speakers:* *Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Zuehlke,* *ret. Professor for Innovative Factory Systems, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), and Honorary Executive Board Member, smartfactory-KL e.V. Kaiserslautern/Germany* *Laurent Maillefer,* *Vice President - Robotics & Discrete Automation - Malaysia, ABB Malaysia Sdn Bhd* *Chuck Fung,* *General Manager, Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Division, Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC)* Manufacturing ecosystems worldwide are evolving to balance competitiveness with sustainability, offering valuable lessons for ASEAN. This panel brings together global and regional perspectives to share successes and failures in building sustainable factories and supply chains, highlighting the barriers that persist and the opportunities ahead. By examining real-world case studies, delegates will gain practical insights into how ASEAN manufacturers can adapt global best practices to local realities—laying the groundwork for deeper discussions on digitalisation barriers and pathways to transformation.
COFFEE BREAK	
16:00 – 17:00	**Breakout sessions: Deep dive into common digitalisation barriers** **Track 1) Digital skills gap** • What digital skills (e.g., data analytics, IoT, AI literacy) are most urgently / commonly needed in manufacturing today, and how do they differ across roles? • How can companies balance hiring new talent versus upskilling existing employees to close the gap effectively? • What partners / organisation could help build a sustainable pipeline of / provide training for digital skills? ***Track 2) ROI assessment to implement digitalisation*** • What metrics beyond cost savings (e.g., productivity, resilience, sustainability) should be included in ROI calculations for digital projects? • How can manufacturers measure intangible benefits like improved decision-making or customer satisfaction when assessing ROI? ***Track 3) AI applications*** • What ethical or workforce concerns arise when deploying AI, and how should companies address them? • How can manufacturers integrate AI into existing processes without disrupting operations or alienating employees?

Day 2 14.5.2026	**From vision to value: realising digitalisation** After a full day of exploring theories and future visions, Day Two turns to the practical realities of digitalisation. This track focuses on how manufacturers can move beyond concepts to achieve measurable impact, showcasing strategies that translate digital ambitions into tangible business outcomes. Participants will gain insights into overcoming common barriers, applying digital tools effectively, and building resilient, human-centric manufacturing ecosystems that deliver both competitiveness and sustainability.
09:15 – 09:35	**Physical AI: The Key to Unlocking Improved Supply Chain Resilience through Human-Robot Collaboration** *Summer Toh,* *Senior Director, Regional Marketing, Smart Home & Building, Infineon Technologies Asia Pacific* With rising material costs, geopolitical tensions, and supply disruptions reshaping global trade, manufacturers are under pressure to make their supply chains more competitive and adaptive. This session examines how physical AI can deliver practical advantages—from improving supplier visibility and responsiveness to leveraging predictive analytics for pricing, sourcing, and risk management. By focusing on competitiveness rather than sustainability, the discussion highlights how manufacturers can use physial AI to reduce costs, secure supply, and build stronger partnerships. Delegates will gain actionable insights into how human-robot collaboration and resilient supply chains can become a strategic differentiator for ASEAN manufacturers in today's volatile market.
09:35 – 09:55	**Industrial 5G: Turning Digitalisation into Measurable Value** *Claire Featherstone,* *Chief Commercial Officer, Enfrasys Network Sdn Bhd* Industrial 5G is moving from pilots to production across Malaysia and ASEAN. This session focuses on how manufacturers can translate 5G into measurable value—improving real-time visibility, automation, and responsiveness through private networks and edge-enabled applications. Drawing on regional best practices and Malaysia's expanding portfolio of use cases, speakers will share concrete deployment lessons, KPIs, and pathways to scale—turning connectivity into competitive advantage
09:55 – 10:25	**AI-Driven Production Optimization: Accelerating the Journey to Zero Waste Factories** *Sakthivel Narayanasamy,* *Chairman, Quantum Computing (M) Sdn Bhd* This session explores how AI-driven Production Optimization can accelerate the transition toward zero-waste manufacturing by 2030. By unifying machine data, process conditions, and energy usage into real-time analytics, manufacturers can eliminate material waste, reduce rejects, and improve efficiency while delivering measurable ESG outcomes. Drawing on use cases from electronics, food processing, and high-mix environments, the paper demonstrates how digitalisation translates vision into tangible value—boosting competitiveness and sustainability for Malaysia's manufacturing sector.
COFFEE BREAK	
10:55 - 11:15	**Beyond Coding: Using OpenVINO™ and Generative AI to Close the Digital Skills Gap in ASEAN Factories** *Kwek Ser Wee,* *Director, Business & Market Development APJ, Industrial & Robotics Division, Edge Computing Group, Intel Malaysia* As ASEAN manufacturers transition toward Industry 5.0, the "digital skills gap" remains a primary barrier to scaling intelligent systems. This session explores how the OpenVINO™ platform is evolving from traditional computer vision toward Embodied AI, enabling a more intuitive, human-centric factory floor. By leveraging on-device Generative AI and Vision-Language-Action (VLA) models, manufacturers can move away from complex manual coding toward natural language interaction.We will share technical insights into how these optimized edge AI agents empower the existing workforce to manage autonomous robotics and real-time process adjustments. Attendees will gain a neutral, knowledge-based perspective on how localized intelligence reduces technical friction, ensuring that digital transformation in the region remains accessible, sustainable, and centered on human-machine collaboration.

14.5.2026	From vision to value: realising digitalisation
11:15 – 11:35	**Scaling AI in Manufacturing: Lessons from Pilots to Plant-Wide Deployment** *Omar Abouelmagd,* *IT Lead Consultant for Smart Manufacturing Solutions, Lenovo Malaysia* This session explores how AI-driven Production Optimization can accelerate the transition toward zero-waste manufacturing by 2030. By unifying machine data, process conditions, and energy usage into real-time analytics, manufacturers can eliminate material waste, reduce rejects, and improve efficiency while delivering measurable ESG outcomes. Drawing on use cases from electronics, food processing, and high-mix environments, the paper demonstrates how digitalisation translates vision into tangible value—boosting competitiveness and sustainability for Malaysia's manufacturing sector.
11:35 – 12:20	**Panel discussion:** **From Cobots to Humanoids: Are Manufacturers Prepared?** *Moderator: Dr Dominic Gorecky,* *Head of Swiss Smart Factory & Swiss Health Tech Center, Partner, Executive Board Member, Switzerland, Innovation Park Biel/Bienne AG* *Panel speakers:* *Edwin Yap,* *Founder, Mr Robot* *Sam Su,* *Co-founder, Work E Robotics* *Summer Toh,* *Senior Director, Regional Marketing, Smart Home & Building, Infineon Technologies Asia Pacific* Cobots are gaining traction in Malaysia and ASEAN as manufacturers seek practical automation solutions, while humanoid robots are advancing rapidly in AI and complex manipulation. One year after IMKL 2025's debate, this panel revisits the question: which is the best fit for manufacturing today—and are we ready for humanoids yet? Moderated by Dominic, the discussion will assess the progress made in the past 12 months, compare real-world cobot deployments with emerging humanoid use cases and explore why certain applications may require supports from robots. Delegates will gain a clear view of current realities, future pathways, and the readiness of ASEAN manufacturers to embrace the next wave of robotics.
LUNCH	
Day 2 **14.5.2026**	**Overcoming obstacles – pathways to your digitalisation journey** Concluding the conference, this track addresses the barriers that manufacturers encounter on the road to human-centric digital transformation. Building on the conference theme, it focuses on practical solutions to common challenges. Solution providers will pitch approaches tailored to delegates' problem statements, followed by a case study that demonstrates measurable returns from digitalisation. The track closes with a panel discussion that synthesizes insights from across the two days, equipping participants with clear pathways to overcome obstacles and confidently advance their transformation journey.
13:50 - 14:20	**Breaking Barriers with Multifunctional Robotics: From Single-Task to Adaptive Systems** *Edwin Yap,* *Founder, Mr Robot* Manufacturers often struggle with integrating robotics into diverse, fast-changing production environments. This session explores how multifunctional robots—designed to adapt across multiple roles—can overcome these hurdles, reduce downtime, and maximise ROI. Moving beyond single-task automation, adaptive systems enable faster changeovers, greater flexibility, and resilience in the face of disruption. We will also highlight how these innovations support sustainability goals and foster stronger collaboration between humans and machines, offering delegates practical insights into building scalable automation pathways aligned with Industry 5.0.

14.5.2026	Overcoming obstacles – pathways to your digitalisation journey
14:20 - 14:50	**Unlocking Value in Digitalisation: Case Studies on ROI and Financial Pathways** *Mani Maran,* *First Vice President, UOB Innovation Hub* Digitalisation promises transformative gains, but manufacturers often face uncertainty around investment returns and financing structures. This session highlights real-world case studies where financial models have enabled companies to manage digitalisation timelines effectively while achieving feasible ROI. By exploring practical pathways—from phased investments to innovative financing approaches—delegates will gain insights into how to balance upfront costs with long-term value creation. The discussion will showcase strategies that make digital transformation both resilient and sustainable, offering clear guidance on how manufacturers can unlock measurable value through smart financial planning.
14:50 - 15:20	**The Integration of Collaborative Robots (Cobots) in Manufacturing Plants: Enhancing Productivity, Safety, and Innovation** This session explores the practical roadmap for integrating cobots into diverse production environments. Dobot will share regional insights on how collaborative automation strategically enhances workforce safety and drives significant productivity gains across supply chains. Moving beyond technical deployment, the discussion addresses critical implementation obstacles, including workforce upskilling and cultural readiness for human-robot synergy. To lower the barrier for regional manufacturers, we will discuss the "rent-to-own" concept as an innovative financial model. Attendees will gain actionable strategies to make cobot adoption accessible, scalable, and a core driver of manufacturing innovation.
COFFEE BREAK	
15:50 – 16:15	**Sustainable Intelligence: How Manufacturers Scaled Energy Efficiency through Digital Twins** As Malaysia advances its NETR goals, this case study shares the journey of a local manufacturer in achieving significant carbon reduction. The session moves beyond theoretical ESG goals to demonstrate the practical implementation of Digital Twins to monitor and optimize real-time energy consumption. We will discuss the initial investment rationale, the integration of renewable energy sources on-site, and the measurable environmental and financial returns realized within 18 months. Attendees will gain a blueprint for aligning factory performance with global sustainability standards without compromising operational competitiveness.
16:15 - 17:00	**Panel discussion:** **Beyond Automation – Keeping Humans at the Heart of Digital Transformation in Manufacturing** *Moderator: Dr Chua Wen-Shyan,* *Head of Malaysian Smart Factory 4.0, Selangor Human Resource Development Centre (SHRDC)* *Panel speakers:* *Omar Abouelmagd,* *IT Lead Consultant for Smart Manufacturing Solutions, Lenovo Malaysia* *Benedict Lee,* *Business Transformation Specialist, Hypernix Sdn Bhd* *Vishnu Vevakanandan,* *Strategy, Engagement Manager, IPSOS Strategy3* To conclude the two-day program, this panel brings the conversation full circle by returning to the central theme of human-centric digital transformation. While automation and intelligent technologies are reshaping manufacturing, the true measure of success lies in how they empower people. Panelists will explore practical strategies for ensuring that digitalisation enhances human capability rather than replacing it, from workforce empowerment and skills development to designing systems that prioritize safety, creativity, and collaboration. By reflecting on insights shared across the conference, this closing discussion will highlight how manufacturers can move beyond automation to build resilient, competitive, and human-centered ecosystems for the future.

Register now!

Meet our speakers

DR. CHUA WEN-SHYAN

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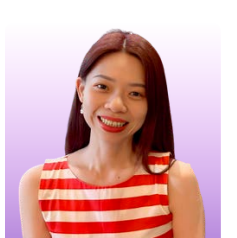

MS. SAM SU HUI LING

WORKE ROBOTICS

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and more to be announced!

Speakers profile

Conference participation

Delegates package	MYR 12,000	• Eight (8) complimentary tickets • 30% special discount on additional conference tickets • Logo exposure on event website as supporter • Logo exposure on event backdrop and event guide
Group purchase	MYR 1,600 / pax	• Min 3 tickets or above
Early bird discount	MYR 2,150 / pax	• From now until 12 May 2026
Academia	MYR 1,200 / pax	
Students	MYR 950 / pax	
Standard price	MYR 2,400 / pax	

*The price is subjected to local prevailing SST
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2026 Event information

Event dates & opening hours
13 – 14.5.2026 9:15 – 17:00 (Two-day conference)
13 – 15.5.2026 10:00 – 18:00 (Product showcase & Tech Labs)

Venue
Hall 7, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), Malaysia

Conference co-organiser
SHRDC

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Advisory committee
Dr Chua Wen-Shyan, Head of Malaysian Smart Factory 4.0, Selangor Human Resource Development Centre (SHRDC)
Dr Ing Dominic Gorecky, Head of Swiss Smart Factory & Swiss Health Tech Center, Partner, Executive Board Member, Switzerland Innovation Park Biel / Bienne AG
Prof Dr David Romero, Scientific Vice-Chairman, World Manufacturing Foundation and Professor of Advanced Manufacturing, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico

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