

Adrian Lim – Technology

What are some of the latest tech trends that excite you?

The technology trends that excite me the most has to be Artificial Intelligence and Extended Reality.

With XR, I could potentially experience one of my favourite shows growing up – Star Trek. It allows us to experience and learn in new and innovative ways.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) allows us to solve previously unsolvable problems. From finding new medical treatments, improving agricultural yields, and to improving efficiencies of businesses that benefits all mankind.

What’s driving Malaysia’s growth, and how can technology enhance efficiency?

Malaysia’s GDP growth year-on-year is around 4.5% primarily driven by domestic consumption.

I believe that we are actually under-performing.

But there are significant opportunities to leverage technology, to enhance efficiencies, improve revenues and create new business models.

First and foremost, we have a relatively young workforce, with approximately 7.7 million Malaysians below the age of 14 – What this means is that today, we have a whole new generation of “digital natives”. By applying technologies such as AI and Extended Reality as part of our education system, we can build a highly competitive and valuable future workforce.

Second, while our unemployment rate is low at 3.3% only 27.8% of our workforce is considered skilled. Basically, Malaysia needs to move from workforce planning to work planning using technologies such as Analytics and Robotics Process Automation to reduce manual labour and make sure that we are investing in our people to understand how to work with technology.

Third, by combining Blockchain, AI, Analytics, IoT and Extended Reality we can improve our construction, manufacturing and agricultural efficiencies that forms the majority of our economy.

What’s stopping Malaysian enterprises from scaling up?

I believe that there are 3 major challenges that organisations need to address to be successful.

First, funding. Most companies see “digital transformation” as a massive cost exercise. Transformation should be self-funded, start small, fail fast and learn even faster.

Second, we need board level support with a strong talent development programme to drive sustainable change.

Third, to scale transformation organisations must build new partnership models.

Which technologies should we adopt for a post-digital future?

Every year, we release our Technology Vision that provides a view of world-changing technology trends. Digital by itself is no longer a competitive differentiator.

But digital itself isn't over. The challenge lies in identifying what digital technology would bring the most value or set you apart.

One of the trends highlighted is DARQ. DARQ technologies will help you build intelligent and highly customized in-the-moment experiences.

What does Malaysia Reimagined Now mean to you?

To me, it means improving the quality of life for all Malaysians.

For us to believe in ourselves.

I believe that we have the potential, we just need to have a greater ambition.