

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 <p>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.</p>
09:15 – 09:30	Opening remark
09:30 – 10:00	<p>Keynote: 20 Years Smart Factory – From Smart Machines to Worldwide Ecosystems <i>Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Zuehlke,</i> <i>ret. Professor for Innovative Factory Systems, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), and</i> <i>Honorary Executive Board Member, smartfactory-KL e.V. Kaiserslautern/Germany</i></p> <p>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.</p>
10:00 – 10:20	<p>Industrial Metaverse & Quantum Computing: The Next Frontier</p> <p>Building on the journey from smart factories to Industry 5.0, this session looks ahead to the next frontier of industrial innovation. The industrial metaverse promises immersive, interconnected ecosystems that transform collaboration, training, and operations, while quantum computing opens unprecedented possibilities in optimization, simulation, and materials discovery. Together, these breakthrough technologies extend the vision of digital transformation—offering ASEAN manufacturers and global leaders a glimpse into how tomorrow’s factories will be designed, operated, and sustained.</p>
10:20 – 10:40	<p>Declaring Industry 5.0: Unlocking the Power of Human-Centric Digital Transformation <i>Dr Dominic Gorecky,</i> <i>Head of Swiss Smart Factory & Swiss Health Tech Center, Partner, Executive Board Member, Switzerland,</i> <i>Innovation Park Biel/Bienne AG</i></p> <p>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.</p>
COFFEE BREAK	
11:10 - 11:20	<p>Benchmarking ASEAN’s Digital Readiness: Insights from SIRI Assessments</p> <p>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.</p>
11:20 - 12:00	<p>Panel discussion: Are ASEAN Manufacturers Ready for Industry 5.0?</p> <p>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.</p>

Day 1 13.5.2026	Global trends in manufacturing digitalisation <p>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.</p>
12:00 – 12:20	<p>Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) for the Future of Manufacturing: Roadmaps & Platforms <i>Prof Dr David Romero,</i> <i>Scientific Vice-Chairman, World Manufacturing Foundation and Professor of Advanced Manufacturing,</i> <i>Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico</i></p> <p>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.</p>
12:20 – 12:40	<p>From Reactive to Proactive: AI Agents Shaping The Future of Manufacturing</p> <p>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.</p>
LUNCH	
14:00 – 14:20	<p>Resilient and Sustainable Supply Chains with Digital Twins & Predictive Analytics</p> <p>Supply chains are under increasing pressure to be both resilient and sustainable. This session explores how digital twins and predictive analytics enable real-time simulation and data-driven insights to anticipate disruptions, optimize operations, and strengthen responsiveness. Beyond resilience, these tools also support sustainability metrics—tracking energy use, emissions, and waste reduction—helping manufacturers align competitiveness with ESG goals. Delegates will gain a practical view of how digitalisation technologies are transforming supply chains into adaptive, intelligent, and sustainable ecosystems.</p>
14:20 - 14:40	<p>Intelligent Robotics: From Enabling Technologies to Human-Centric Machines</p> <p>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.</p>
14:40 – 15:25	<p>Panel discussion: Building Sustainable Manufacturing Ecosystems: Global Lessons, ASEAN Opportunities</p> <p>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.</p>
COFFEE BREAK	
16:00 – 17:00	<p>Breakout sessions: Deep dive into common digitalisation barriers Track 1) Digital skills gap / Track 2) ROI assessment to implement digitalisation / Track 3) Data management / Track 4) AI applications</p>

Day 2 14.5.2026	From vision to value: realising digitalisation <p>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.</p>
09:15 – 09:35	Supply Chain Resilience in Practice through Digitalisation for Competitiveness <p>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 digitalisation 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 digital tools to reduce costs, secure supply, and build stronger partnerships. Delegates will gain actionable insights into how resilient supply chains can become a strategic differentiator for ASEAN manufacturers in today's volatile market.</p>
09:35 – 09:55	Industrial 5G: Turning digitalisation into measurable value <p>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</p>
09:55 – 10:25	AI-Driven Production Optimization: Accelerating the Journey to Zero Waste Factories <i>Sakthivel Narayanasamy,</i> <i>Chairman, Quantum Computing (M) Sdn Bhd</i> <p>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.</p>
COFFEE BREAK	
10:55 - 11:15	Securing Intelligent Systems: Guardrails and Observability for Trustworthy AI in Manufacturing <p>As manufacturers adopt AI to drive competitiveness, resilience, and automation, ensuring that these systems remain secure, reliable, and aligned with business goals becomes critical. This session explores how to implement guardrails, observability tools, and governance frameworks that prevent AI from going wrong, whether through bias, mis-decision, or cyber vulnerabilities. Speakers will share practical approaches to embedding trust into intelligent systems, from monitoring AI agents in production to securing digital twins and robotics. Delegates will gain actionable insights into building trustworthy, human-centric AI ecosystems that deliver measurable value without compromising safety or integrity.</p>
11:15 – 11:35	Scaling AI in Manufacturing: Lessons from Pilots to Plant-Wide Deployment <p>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.</p>

From vision to value: realising digitalisation

11:35 – 12:20

Panel discussion:

From Cobots to Humanoids: Are Manufacturers Prepared?

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

Pitching session 1: Solution Providers on Digital Skills & Workforce Upskilling

14:20 - 14:50

Pitching session 2: ROI & Financing Models for Digitalisation

14:50 - 15:20

Pitching session 3: Data Management & AI Integration Solutions

COFFEE BREAK

15:50 – 16:15

ROI in Digitalisation: Why Manufacturers Invest and How Returns Are Realised

When manufacturers embark on Industry 4.0, understanding both the why and the how is critical. This case study highlights a successful digitalisation journey, sharing the rationale behind the investment, the implementation steps taken, and the timeline required to achieve measurable returns. It addresses common misconceptions that ROI is immediate, showing instead how gains are unlocked through continuous improvement, integration, and workforce alignment. Delegates will gain practical insights into setting realistic expectations, planning the right activities, and ensuring digitalisation delivers sustainable value.

16:15 - 17:00

Panel discussion:

Beyond Automation – Keeping Humans at the Heart of Digital Transformation in Manufacturing

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.



PROF. DR. DR. H.C.
DETLEF ZUEHLKE



PROF. DR.
DAVID ROMERO



DR. CHUA WEN-SHYAN



DR.
DOMINIC GORECKY



MR. SAKTHIVEL
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Standard booth with
conference slot
USD 7,550 / package

- 9 sqm standard booth with basic furniture & fixtures
- Speaking opportunity at main conference
- A Tech Lab session
- Conference tickets x 5 nos
- 10% discount on extra tickets purchased
- Logo exposure on official social media and website for speaker promotion

Standard booth
USD 445 / sqm

- Min 9 sqm standard booth with basic furniture & fixtures
- A Tech Lab session (first-come-first-served basis)



Raw space
USD 360 / sqm

- Min 18 sqm raw space rental
- A Tech Lab session (first-come-first-served basis)



Start-up booth
USD 1,850 / unit

- Min 18 sqm raw space rental
- A Tech Lab session (first-come-first-served basis)
- For company which is established not less than 6 months and no more than 5 years with fewer than 25 employees.



sps stage

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KUALA LUMPUR

USD 3,900 / unit

- 6 sqm counter booth with basic furniture & fixtures at "SPS Stage Pavilion"
- LED TV with stand or mount on counter (depends on booth design)
- A Tech Lab session under SPS Stage track
- Applicable for Smart Production Solutions (SPS) exhibitors only



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Conference participation

Delegates package	MYR 12,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Min 3 tickets or above
Super early bird	MYR 1,650 / pax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From now until 28 Feb 2025
Academia	MYR 1,200 / pax	
Students	MYR 950 / pax	
Standard price	MYR 2,400 / pax	

*The price is subjected to local prevailing SST

**This conference is HRD Corp Levy Claimable



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



Endorsed by



Technical consultants



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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