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**BRIDGING THE MANUFACTURING SKILLS GAP: SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS**  
**COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO UPSKILL FUTURE TALENT IN M&E**  
**INDUSTRY**

25 May 2023, Shah Alam - Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC), in partnership with the Machinery & Engineering Industries Federation (MEIF), hosted a groundbreaking seminar titled "Process Improvement & Technology" to address the manufacturing skills gap prevalent in the Machinery & Equipment (M&E) industry. The event, held in conjunction with the Metal Engineering Exhibition (MTE) 2023, brought together distinguished industry experts, educational institutions, and government representatives to explore a collaborative approach in upskilling future talent for industry readiness.

The seminar, organized by the Machinery and Equipment Productivity Nexus (MEPN), received full support from MPC and aimed to enhance productivity, drive growth, and bridge the talent rescue gap in the M&E subsector. The Chairman of Talent Development Work Group MEPN, Mr. Tiong Khe Hock, emphasized the importance of equipping M&E players with a lean and continuous improvement mindset through the Process Improvement Program through Technology (PIP).

Addressing the audience, Datin Lorela Chia, Vice President 1 of MEIF, highlighted the crucial role of building a comprehensive ecosystem in the M&E industry, emphasizing talent, skill, productivity, innovation, and profitability. The integration of multiple stakeholders and the coordination of efforts are vital to boost domestic consumption and strengthen the industry's position in the global value chain.

Highlighting the importance of the seminar, Dr. Mohamad Norjayadi Tamam, Director of the Technology Section at MPC, emphasized its role in bolstering productivity within

the Machinery & Equipment subsector. The objective of the PIP is to equip the future workforce with the vital skills necessary to thrive in the rapidly evolving technology landscape. This endeavor relies on the collaborative efforts of educational institutions, industry leaders, and government support to ensure the preparation of young minds for success.

He also stressed the importance of practical experiences and exposure to cutting-edge technologies through internships, apprenticeships, and mentorship programs. Industry mentors were recognized as catalysts in guiding and inspiring students, enhancing their employability, and creating a pipeline of skilled individuals. The government's focus on future talent development, particularly in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programs, aligns with the industry's need for work experience opportunities and exposure.

The seminar served as a platform to exchange insights, learn from real-life examples and case studies, and foster collaboration efforts to bridge the manufacturing skills gap in the M&E subsector. This collaborative approach, driven by industry experts, educational institutions, and government support, creates an ecosystem for young talents to flourish and contribute to Malaysia's sustainable growth.

**End.**

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#### **About Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC)**

*MPC is a statutory body under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). It drives national productivity holistically at the national, sectoral, and enterprise levels through five main thrusts: developing future talent, driving digitization and innovation, ensuring industry accountability for productivity, building a robust ecosystem, and fostering productive mindset. It collaborates strategically with the private and public sectors by emphasising productivity as a key agenda to boost productivity growth and national competitiveness, ultimately leading to shared well-being and prosperity.*