28 MARCH 2026

Volume 1

Issue 6

UNIMY tech byte

A monthly e-Newsletter of the University Malaysia of Computer Science & Engineering

TECH TALK:
How Blockchain is Shaping the Future of Finance and Beyond

This Month's Highlights

- Blockchain: The Future of Finance
- Demystifying FinTech & Crypto: Separating Real Innovation from Financial Hype
- How Blockchain Can Enhance Trust and Efficiency, Strengthening Islamic Finance

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Volume 1, Issue 6

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e-Newsletter

UNIMY Education Sdn. Bhd.

Company Registration Number: 200501001375 (678420-U)

MOHE Approval Number: DUO40(B)

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UNIMY UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Contents

From the Editor's Desk

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
Editor / Deputy Vice Chancellor, UNIMY

This edition of ***Tech Byte*** highlights an important aspect of UNIMY's development as a technology-focused university in its ability to connect digital innovation with industry relevance, international engagement, and social purpose. Across the stories featured here, a clear theme emerges. **Technology** is not treated as an isolated technical subject, but as a **platform for learning, collaboration, and responsible progress**.

A key feature in this issue is UNIMY's **Tech Talk, *How Blockchain Is Shaping the Future of Finance and Beyond*.** The session reinforced that blockchain is no longer a fringe topic. It is becoming increasingly relevant to wider discussions on trust, transparency, accountability, verification, and value exchange in the digital economy. Its implications extend beyond finance into governance, compliance, digital identity, and institutional systems.

For UNIMY, this is closely aligned with its **business technology and digital innovation agenda**, and with its wider role in preparing graduates who can evaluate not only what technology can do, but also where ethics, governance, and caution are needed. The signing of the **MoU with Satori Research** also marks a positive step towards developing stronger **Web3 and blockchain education pathways** at the university.

This issue also shows that technological education must be accompanied by international exposure and intercultural understanding. UNIMY's participation in ***CommTECH Camp Insight 2026* at Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember, Surabaya**, illustrates this well. Through the participation of **Muhammad Nabil Fikri from the Bachelor of Computer Engineering (Hons)** programme, UNIMY was represented in a regional platform that combined technical learning, collaborative problem-solving, and cultural exchange. Exposure to applied engineering systems, intelligent transport technologies, multinational teamwork, and shared cultural experiences is important in shaping graduates who are not only technically competent, but also globally aware and socially adaptable.

The edition also highlights UNIMY's growing international outreach through the visit by representatives from **Panjin Dawa Senior High School in Liaoning Province, China**. Their discussions with UNIMY on possible collaboration in Game Development reflect the increasing recognition of digital creative disciplines as serious and future-oriented fields of study. The visit also helped clarify an important point: game development at UNIMY is not about game playing, but about building competencies in design, animation, storytelling, programming, and interactive media that are relevant across many sectors of the digital economy.

Equally important is the reminder that technology must serve society. The contribution made during the blockchain event to the **UPLIFT 1 Million Devices Campaign and the Help Put Every Malaysian Child Online project** reflects UNIMY's continuing view that innovation must be linked to inclusion. A meaningful digital future cannot be built if access remains limited to only a few.

Taken together, the stories in this issue reflect a university strengthening its role in digital innovation, global engagement, and social responsibility.

Cover Story

Tech Talk: How Blockchain is Shaping the Future of Finance and Beyond

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
Editor / Deputy Vice Chancellor, UNIMY

UNIMY successfully hosted its Tech Talk titled ***How Blockchain is Shaping the Future of Finance and Beyond*** on 11 March 2026, bringing together industry leaders, practitioners, academics, and students for an engaging afternoon on the growing significance of blockchain in finance, governance, and digital innovation.

The session made clear that blockchain is no longer a peripheral technology. It is fast becoming a core infrastructure that is reshaping how value is created, exchanged, verified, and governed. Across the presentations, speakers highlighted how Malaysia is positioning itself at the forefront of tokenised assets, blockchain-enabled trust infrastructure, and Shariah-compliant digital finance. At the same time, the discussion pointed to the rise of new professional pathways, with roles in smart contracts, decentralised finance (DeFi), token structuring, and digital asset innovation expected to become increasingly mainstream over the next five years.

Mr. Ranjit Singh Gill of Kenanga Investors opened the discussion by noting that the global banking infrastructure, built on systems that are now decades old, is undergoing fundamental change. He highlighted projections that Malaysia's tokenised asset market could reach US$43 billion by 2030, while emphasising that careers such as Smart Contract Auditor, Token Structurer, and DeFi Product Analyst are likely to become part of the mainstream financial ecosystem.

Mr. Azhar Abu Talib of MIMOS then shifted attention to Malaysia's broader blockchain ambitions, describing efforts to build a national blockchain trust layer. Importantly, this was framed not as a cryptocurrency agenda, but as a foundational digital infrastructure capable of connecting government, businesses, and citizens. His presentation stressed a wider transformation in which capital allocation may increasingly be based on verified work and trusted digital records rather than only on conventional measures such as collateral and credit scores.

Dr. Mufti Yousuf Sultan of ADL Advisory explored the convergence between blockchain and Islamic finance. He showed that the values underpinning both are highly compatible, particularly in relation to transparency, accountability, and ethical compliance. Drawing on examples such as Mabrook and ZakatChain, he demonstrated how blockchain can widen access to investment, improve traceability in charitable giving, and automate Shariah compliance. He also drew attention to the significant untapped potential of dormant Waqf assets globally.

Mr. Teong Hng Gaik, CEO and Founder of Satori Research, situated Malaysia's blockchain trajectory within a longer history of national digital leadership. Referring to Malaysia's early adoption of chip-based passports, he argued that this same orientation toward innovation is reflected in current initiatives such as Project Juara. He further noted that the launch of Malaysia's first tokenised money market fund in February 2026 signals that the country is not merely discussing blockchain transformation but already implementing it.

A key highlight of the event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UNIMY and Satori Research. This collaboration marks an important step in creating stronger industry pathways for UNIMY students, particularly in the areas of blockchain, digital assets, and emerging financial technologies. It reflects UNIMY's continuing commitment to linking academic learning with industry practice and future-oriented skills development.

The panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Thillai Raj Ramanathan, brought the event to a strong close by stressing a larger strategic point that the organisations that will lead the coming decade are those able to scale rapidly without relying on conventional models of ownership. In this context, blockchain was presented not simply as a finance tool, but as an enabling architecture for accelerated growth, trusted exchange, and new business models.

As a token of appreciation, each speaker and the moderator received a Certificate of Appreciation together with a RM300 donation made in their name to the UPLIFT – 1 Million Devices Campaign and UNIMY-Baycom's Help Put Every Malaysian Child Online Project. The contribution supports the refurbishment of laptops to establish ***Balai Belajar*** for Orang Asli and B40 communities, reflecting a shared commitment to a more inclusive digital future.

UNIMY extends its sincere appreciation to all speakers, participants, and those who joined the event in person and via YouTube Live. The Tech Talk was not only a timely conversation on the future of finance, but also a reminder that digital transformation must be matched by inclusion, access, and meaningful collaboration.

Note: The subsequent pages provide an expanded write-up of each presentation.

Blockchain: The Future of Finance

Ranjit Gill

Director & Head of Product and Market Development, Kenanga Investors Berhad

Blockchain is no longer a peripheral technology discussed only within specialist circles. It is increasingly becoming part of the core infrastructure of modern finance. At its most practical level, blockchain changes how value is recorded, transferred, verified, and settled. Traditional financial systems still rely on layers of intermediaries, delayed settlement cycles, high entry thresholds, and limited transparency. In contrast, blockchain-based tokenisation offers a more efficient model by enabling near-instant settlement, fractional ownership, clearer audit trails, and lower transaction costs. In this sense, blockchain does not merely improve the existing financial system; it reconfigures the underlying architecture through which financial assets move.

Within this broader transition, Malaysia is in a particularly favourable position. The country is not starting from zero. It already possesses several institutional and structural advantages that make it well suited to participate in the tokenisation economy. These include a maturing regulatory environment, strong institutional capital, a globally recognised sukuk market, and an emerging generation of digitally fluent talent. Collectively, these factors place Malaysia in a credible position to become a regional leader in tokenised finance, particularly in the areas of bonds, sukuk, and regulated investment products.

A major reference point in this discussion is ***Project Juara: Malaysia's Asset Tokenisation Opportunity***, published in August 2025. The report offers a bottom-up assessment of Malaysia's tokenisable asset classes and estimates that the country's tokenised asset market could reach US$43 billion by 2030. A significant share of this opportunity lies in bonds and sukuk, which are large, standardised,

and institutionally established. Unit trusts also represent an important segment, especially because they are already familiar to everyday investors. Tokenisation, therefore, is not limited to speculative digital assets. Its strongest use case may lie in making conventional, regulated financial products faster, more accessible, and more transparent.

This shift is already visible in practice. Kenanga's tokenisation journey illustrates how financial institutions are moving from concept to implementation. The firm first positioned itself early through strategic investment in digital asset infrastructure. It then contributed to shaping the national conversation through Project Juara. More importantly, this momentum led to the launch of Myrra, Malaysia's first tokenised money market funds on the Stellar blockchain in 2026. These products demonstrate that tokenisation can be executed within a regulated framework, with one-to-one parity between the token and the underlying fund unit, thereby ensuring legal and economic clarity. This is a critical distinction. The value of blockchain in finance lies not in hype, but in compliant, real-world applications.

Looking ahead, the future points beyond money market funds. The next stage is likely to involve tokenised bonds and sukuk, followed by broader ecosystem development that may include cross-border products and wider retail access to institutional-grade assets. This suggests that tokenisation will not remain a technical niche. It will require expertise across finance, law, compliance, product development, and digital systems.

For students and young professionals, this creates a timely opportunity. The financial world they are entering will not resemble the one that trained previous generations. New roles such as token structurer, blockchain compliance officer, smart contract auditor, and tokenisation product manager are beginning to emerge. Those who understand both finance and digital systems will be especially well placed. The immediate task, therefore, is not to wait for the industry to mature, but to begin building literacy in blockchain, capital markets, and regulation now. The infrastructure of future finance is being built in the present, and those who engage early may help define its direction.

Note: This full presentation was delivered at UNIMY's Tech Talk on 12 March 2026

Demystifying FinTech & Crypto: Separating Real Innovation from Financial Hype

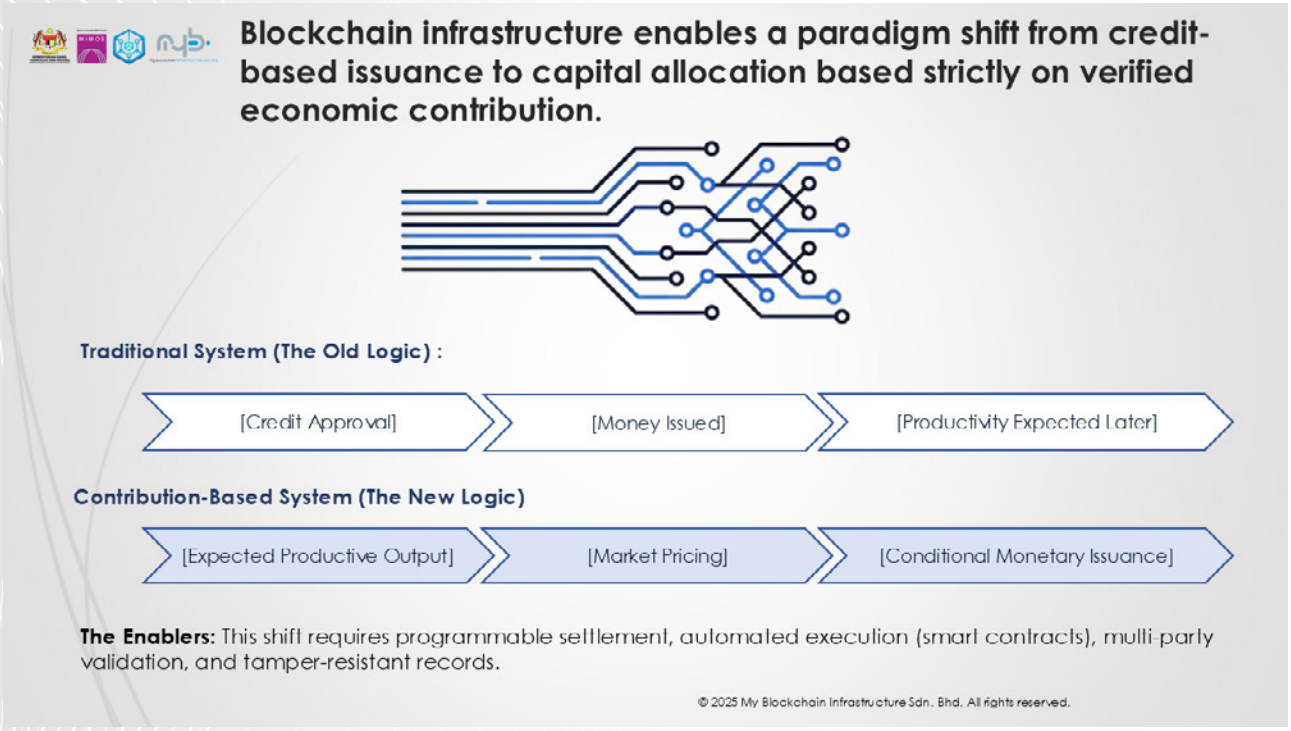
Azhar Abu Talib
Chief Executive Officer, MyBlockchain Infrastructure, subsidiary of MIMOS Berhad

Malaysia Blockchain Infrastructure (MBI) is a national initiative established under the Malaysia Blockchain Roadmap 2021–2025 to strengthen blockchain adoption beyond cryptocurrency and position it within the country's wider digital transformation agenda. Operated by MIMOS, MBI was designed as a government-backed, tamper-proof, interoperable and permissioned platform that connects blockchain networks with existing institutional systems. Its strategic role is to function as a national trust layer that enables secure digital exchange across government, businesses and citizens, while addressing fragmentation, inefficiency and weak interoperability in the digital economy.

FinTech and crypto are often associated with speculation, volatility and financial hype. Such a framing is too narrow. The more important issue is economic function. Assets, whether physical or digital, derive value from utility, income potential, scarcity, collateral value and network acceptance. Digital form alone does not create value. A digital asset becomes economically meaningful only when it is embedded in real activity, widely accepted, and able to solve recurring transactional or institutional problems.

Traditional and digital assets both represent ownership and claims to future value, but they differ in how trust is established. Traditional systems rely heavily on institutional trust, intermediaries, documentation and enforcement mechanisms. Digital assets, by contrast, are supported through cryptographic proof and programmable logic. This shift is important because it changes how value is validated, exchanged and protected. Blockchain, therefore, should not be understood merely as a financial novelty, but as an alternative trust architecture.

The current financial system remains largely credit-based, with access to capital determined by collateral, prior credit history and institutional approval. While this model has supported economic growth, it has also produced structural weaknesses such as debt dependency, exclusion of many SMEs, high compliance costs and repeated cycles of instability. Blockchain infrastructure creates the possibility for a contribution-based model, in which capital can be allocated on the basis of verified economic contribution rather than historical creditworthiness alone. This opens the way for more dynamic and inclusive forms of value recognition.



At the centre of this transition is data. Raw data has little economic value unless it is authenticated, verified, accepted by counterparties and capable of triggering action. A verified invoice can support tax deduction, a validated certificate of origin can facilitate customs clearance, and a confirmed identity can enable access to financial services. Without validation, the digital economy faces fraud, disputes, delay and inefficiency. The real bottleneck is therefore not data creation, but data validation.

For this reason, a digital economy requires a trust validation infrastructure. MBI addresses this need through trusted credentials, trusted transactions and trusted data. By enabling digital identity, verifiable credentials, smart contracts, traceability and interoperability, MBI provides the trust fabric required for a more secure, efficient and inclusive digital economy. The real promise of blockchain lies not in hype, but in its capacity to support accountable systems and meaningful national transformation.

Note: This full presentation was delivered at UNIMY's Tech Talk on 12 March 2026.

How Blockchain Can Enhance Trust and Efficiency, Strengthening Islamic Finance

Dr Mufti Yousuf Sultan
Founder & CEO, ADL Advisory

Blockchain is increasingly being discussed as a transformative digital infrastructure, but its relevance to Islamic finance lies not merely in its technological novelty. Its real significance is in how its core features can support the ethical, legal and governance foundations that Islamic finance has long upheld. In this respect, blockchain should be understood as a foundational system upon which multiple financial applications can be built, much like an operating system that enables a broad range of activities while maintaining a clear structure and set of rules.

Islamic finance is guided by principles that emphasise justice, transparency, protection of wealth and the broader objectives of the Shariah. These principles are not secondary considerations. They form the basis for ensuring that finance serves society in a fair and responsible manner. Blockchain aligns well with these requirements because it offers visible ledgers, shared validation mechanisms and tamper-resistant records. Transparency on a distributed ledger supports ***shafafiyyah*** by making transactions more open and auditable. Distributed consensus supports ***adl*** by reducing unilateral control and promoting fair validation. Immutable records support ***hifz al-mal*** by helping to protect wealth from manipulation, fraud and unjust loss.

How Blockchain Can Enhance Islamic Finance

Transparency ↔ Shafafiyyah

Blockchain's visible ledger directly supports the requirement for clear, auditable information.

Distributed Consensus ↔ ʿAdl

Consensus mechanisms promote fairness by decentralising control and validation.

Immutable Records ↔ Hifz al-Mal

Tamper-resistant records protect wealth against fraud and unjust loss.

At the operational level, blockchain can also strengthen compliance with core Shariah requirements. Contracts must be clear, the underlying assets must be permissible, and prohibited elements such as ***riba***, ***maysir*** and excessive ***gharar*** must be avoided. Properly designed blockchain applications, particularly those using smart contracts, can encode contractual conditions in a structured and transparent manner. Yet this does not mean technology can replace governance. On the contrary,

strong governance remains essential. Technical architecture review, Shariah board certification, transparency documentation and ongoing compliance monitoring are all necessary to ensure that digital systems remain aligned with Islamic principles over time.

Several practical applications illustrate this potential. In Shariah-compliant real estate tokenisation, blockchain can record proportional ownership, capital contribution and profit entitlement in a clear and immutable form. Structures based on ***wakalah***, ***shirkat*** and ***ijarah*** can be operationalised more efficiently, while preserving legal enforceability and Shariah oversight. Similarly, in Islamic social finance, blockchain can improve the management of waqf, zakat and sadaqah by enhancing traceability, reducing administrative inefficiency and widening access to participation. This is especially relevant where large endowment assets remain idle due to weak governance, lack of liquidity and poor transparency.

Another emerging area is Shariah-compliant staking on proof-of-stake blockchain networks. Here, compliance may be pursued by filtering transactions and excluding activities linked to interest-based lending, gambling, excessive speculation, fraudulent schemes and other prohibited sectors. Such an approach suggests that blockchain participation need not be accepted in an uncritical manner. Instead, technical design can be guided by Shariah advisory input so that rewards are derived only from screened and permissible activities.

Even so, caution is necessary. Smart contract ambiguity, uncertain asset valuation and automated interest-like mechanisms remain serious concerns. Without careful design, a blockchain system may reproduce the very forms of uncertainty or impermissibility it claims to solve. Hence, the future of blockchain in Islamic finance depends not on technological enthusiasm alone, but on disciplined integration between digital innovation, jurisprudential scrutiny and institutional governance.

Blockchain, therefore, should not be seen as a replacement for Islamic finance principles. Rather, it is a tool that, when properly governed, can strengthen trust, improve efficiency and support a more transparent and accountable Islamic financial ecosystem.

Note: This full presentation was delivered at UNIMY's Tech Talk on 12 March 2026

Establishing Malaysia as a Leading Digital Finance Hub

Teong Hng Gaik
CEO & Founder, Satori Research

Malaysia is increasingly well positioned to emerge as a leading digital finance hub in the region. This position is not based on aspiration alone, but on a combination of location, regulatory readiness, institutional interest, and a growing ecosystem that connects finance, technology, and policy. As digital assets, blockchain applications, and tokenised financial products continue to gain traction globally, Malaysia has an opportunity to move beyond being a participant in digital transformation to becoming a serious regional leader in this space.

Satori Research was established as a digital asset platform that invests, incubates, and educates. Headquartered in Hong Kong with operations in Japan, Malaysia, and Southeast Asia, the organisation works with blockchain startups while also providing advisory services to investors and governments. Its foundations are notable. It began as a spin-off from SBI Holdings in Japan, with founding members from institutions such as Goldman Sachs and J.P. Morgan. Over time, it has built partnerships across both traditional finance and Web3 sectors, reflecting the importance of bridging established financial systems with emerging digital models.

A useful example of Malaysia's forward movement is Project Juara. In March 2025, Satori Research co-led a global delegation to the Parliament of Malaysia to discuss blockchain developments and future opportunities with the Prime Minister. In April 2025, the Prime Minister reaffirmed Malaysia's ambition to become a regional blockchain hub and emphasised that, with the right steps, the

country could position itself at the forefront of this transformation. This was followed in May 2025 by the Securities Commission Malaysia's consultation paper on Tokenised Capital Market Products, an important policy step that signalled regulatory openness to innovation. By August 2025, Project Juara was launched with strategic partners including Kenanga, Helix, and Saison Capital. In February 2026, Kenanga Group launched Malaysia's first tokenised money market funds. These developments suggest that tokenisation is no longer a theoretical discussion. It is entering practical implementation.

Malaysia possesses several structural strengths that support this transition. Its strategic location is critical, especially given that a substantial share of global trade passes through the Straits of Malacca. The country also benefits from a supportive regulatory environment shaped by institutions such as Bank Negara Malaysia and the Securities Commission. In addition, Malaysia has relatively robust technological infrastructure, a growing pool of talent in finance and technology, and an increasingly collaborative ecosystem that includes universities, startups, regulators, and industry actors. These are important ingredients for any digital finance hub.

However, potential alone is insufficient. A coordinated approach is required. Public–private partnerships must be strengthened so that regulators, financial institutions, and blockchain providers can work in alignment. Education and training are equally important, as digital finance requires new competencies in compliance, technology, risk, and innovation. Research institutions and universities should play a greater role in generating knowledge, testing models, and supporting policy development. At the same time, an innovation hub must be cultivated through incubators and accelerators that can provide resources, mentorship, and market access.

The development of Malaysia as a leading digital finance hub will depend on contributions from both students and professionals. Students must remain informed, pursue relevant knowledge, and build entrepreneurial capacity. Professionals, meanwhile, should provide leadership, foster collaboration, and support the growth of credible fintech and blockchain ventures. If these efforts are aligned, Malaysia can build a digital finance ecosystem that is both innovative and globally competitive.

Note: This full presentation was delivered at UNIMY's Tech Talk on 12 March 2026

Innovating Across Borders: A Journey of Technology, Culture and Collaboration at CommTECH Camp Insight 2026

Dr. Lina Tio
Director of International Marketing, UNIMY

From 21 January to 2 February 2026, UNIMY was represented at CommTECH Camp Insight 2026: Stream 1 – Technology Innovation hosted by Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Surabaya, Indonesia. The programme brought together participants from Malaysia, the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand, Cambodia and Russia, creating an important platform for academic exchange, intercultural learning and international friendship.

Representing UNIMY was Muhammad Nabil Fikri, a student from the Bachelor of Computer Engineering (Hons) programme. Throughout the 12-day camp, participants were exposed to a balanced mix of technological exploration, collaborative learning and cultural immersion. The programme began with an opening ceremony where delegates wore their national attire, followed by a campus tour that introduced participants to the scale and facilities of ITS, including its modern library and learning spaces.

The academic segment included a keynote by Prof. Mokhamad Nur Cahyadi on strengthening international collaboration, followed by a visit to the Environmental Engineering Laboratory, where students gained exposure to Indonesia's sanitation and environmental systems. Two technical visits were especially significant. At the National Hydrodynamics Laboratory, participants observed how wave simulation technology is used to test ship design, materials and stability. At the Surabaya Intelligent Transportation System (SITS), they saw how CCTV networks and computer vision

technologies support traffic monitoring and urban mobility management. These visits demonstrated how engineering and digital systems can be applied to practical public needs.

A major highlight of the programme was the Mount Bromo expedition, where participants travelled overnight to witness sunrise from the volcanic landscape. The journey, though physically demanding and cold, became one of the most memorable parts of the camp, strengthened by the warm hospitality of the organisers.

The cultural component of the programme was equally enriching. Students learned to play the angklung and gamelan, practised Batik Kawung drawing, and visited heritage and cultural sites including the De Javasche Bank Museum, the Heroes Monument, Mirota Batik and the Surabaya Kriya Gallery. The camp concluded with a collaborative group project, where participants worked in multinational teams to design technological solutions to real-world issues.

For UNIMY, participation in CommTECH Camp Insight 2026 reflects its commitment to developing globally aware, technologically competent and culturally grounded graduates. The experience offered not only academic exposure, but also meaningful cross-border friendships and lasting personal growth.

"My twelve days at CommTECH Camp Insight in Surabaya were a very meaningful mix of technology and culture. The technical visits, especially to the hydrodynamics lab and SITS, gave me new insight into how engineering and smart systems work in real settings. The Mount Bromo trip was unforgettable, and the friendships I built with students from many countries made the whole experience even more special. It was an eye-opening journey that I will always remember."

Muhammad Nabil Fikri
Student of the Bachelor of Computer Engineering (Hons), UNIMY

Panjin Dawa Senior High School Explores Game Development Pathways with UNIMY

Dr. Lina Tio
Director of International Marketing, UNIMY

Panjin Dawa Senior High School, located in Liaoning Province, China, was founded in 1977 along the scenic banks of the Liao River, an area known for its natural beauty and the red-crowned cranes. Over the years, the school has established a strong reputation for academic excellence and holistic education. It is recognised as one of the first ***Key High Schools*** and ***Characteristic Experimental High Schools*** in Liaoning Province.

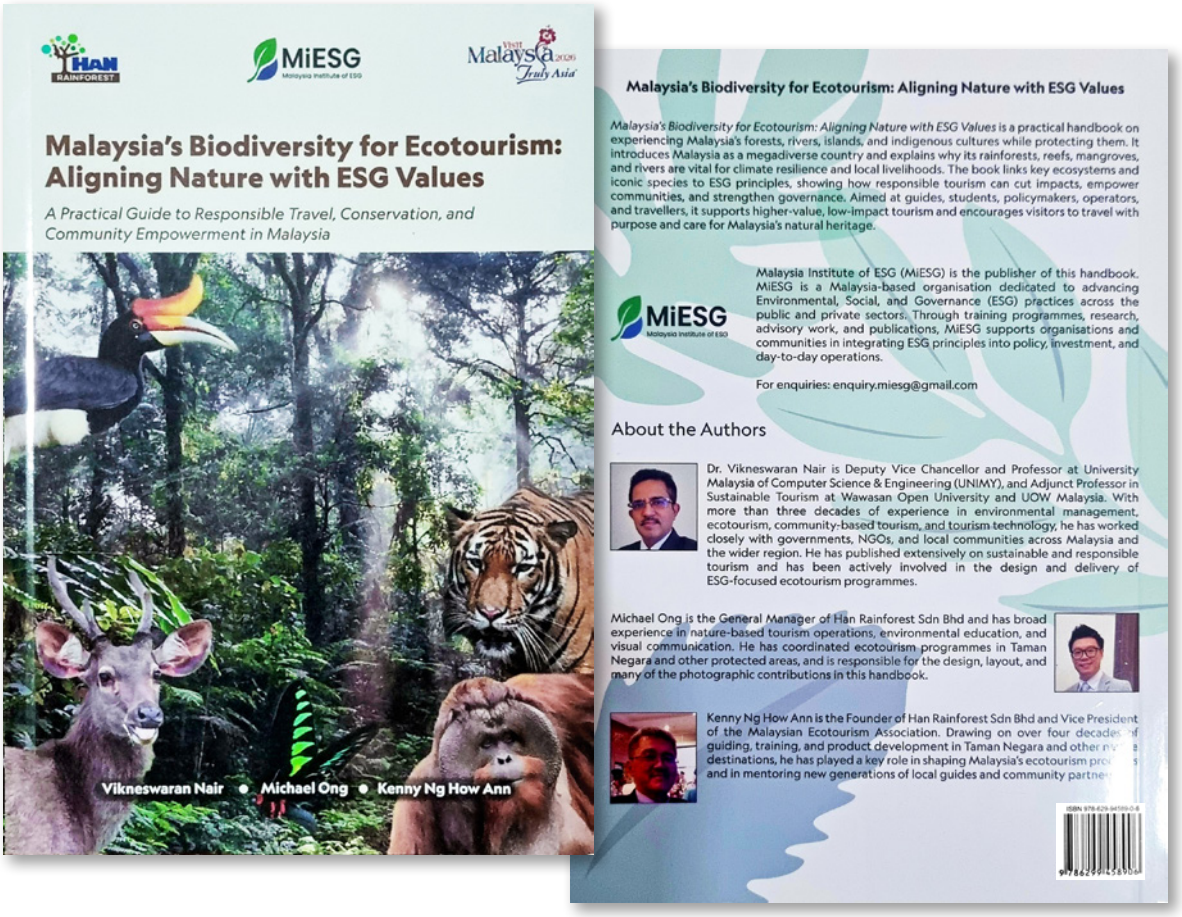
The school has also received numerous national and provincial honours, including recognition as a National Moral Education Demonstration Base, National Character Education Demonstration Base, National Eleventh Five-Year Plan Advanced Scientific Research Collective, and International Eco-School. It has further been acknowledged as a Harmonious Campus and Environmentally Friendly School in Liaoning Province, as well as an Advanced Collective within the Panjin City education system and Dawa County. These achievements reflect the school's commitment to educational quality, innovation, and environmental responsibility.

Recently, representatives from Panjin City Dawa District visited UNIMY to explore opportunities for academic collaboration, particularly in the area of Game Development. The delegation was accompanied by Mr Raymond, who operates offices in Hong Kong, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen, and plays an important role in introducing UNIMY's academic programmes to partners in China.

During the visit, UNIMY Vice-Chancellor, Professor Vikneswaran Nair, introduced the university's Game Development programmes. The discussion focused on UNIMY's Diploma and Bachelor's Degree in Game Development, with emphasis on how the programmes are designed to develop both creative and technical competencies, rather than merely centring on game playing, which is often a common misunderstanding among parents and the public.

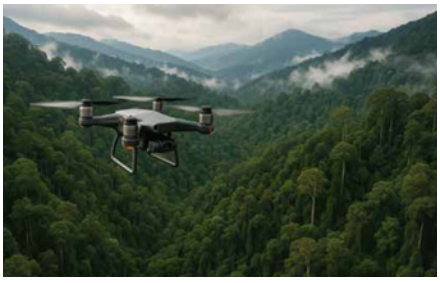
At UNIMY, students are trained in areas such as visual design, animation, digital storytelling, programming, and interactive media creation. These capabilities are relevant not only to the gaming industry but also to wider fields such as social media, digital marketing, business applications, and web development.

The visit represents an encouraging step towards future international academic collaboration and underscores the growing recognition of game development as a dynamic, innovative, and future-oriented field of study.



Published in January 2026, ***Malaysia's Biodiversity for Ecotourism: Aligning Nature with ESG Values*** is a timely and practical contribution by UNIMY Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair, together with Michael Ong and Kenny Ng How Ann. The book presents Malaysia's biodiversity not merely as a natural asset, but as a foundation for responsible travel, conservation, community empowerment, technology support, and ESG-informed ecotourism development.

A key highlight is the chapter on Technology in Ecotourism Management, which explains how tools such as drones, sensors, GIS, and visitor data systems can improve conservation, monitoring, planning, and destination management. In present conditions, where destinations are under pressure from climate change, overtourism, habitat disturbance, and weak enforcement, the integration of technology into ecotourism is no longer optional. It is becoming necessary for conservation, operational efficiency, and long-term destination resilience.



Overall, the book serves as both an educational guide and a policy-relevant resource. It is suitable for students, researchers, tourism practitioners, policymakers, and anyone interested in biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism in Malaysia. Those interested in purchasing the book may contact Prof. Vik directly at: vikneswaran.n@unimy.edu.my