



# BLOCKCHAIN VILLAGE @ MEDINI NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 / May 2020

## FROM BV@M PROJECT DIRECTOR'S DESK



On behalf of the BV@M Secretariat, I hope you are all in the best of health and keeping safe during this challenging period.

Covid-19 has affected various aspects of our lives. What started as a global health emergency has now turned into a global trade and economic crisis whose escalating effects are unparalleled in our current times.

The pandemic has created significant impacts on how societies conduct themselves, how

businesses are run, how global supply chains have come together and the manner governments have responded.

It is affecting a broad swath of international societal, economic and trade activities - from general services to tourism and hospitality, from medical provisions to other supply value chains, from consumer electronics to energy and transportation, from financial markets to food sources, and many others.

On the flip side, the coronavirus-crisis has also created opportunities for reforms in various sectors, namely health, education and services. It provides prospects for improvements in infrastructure and transportation systems, security, disease control and many more.

On that note, we take this opportunity to reach out to you and provide updates on the development of BV@M projects. This inaugural edition will cover news on corporate, pillar and other related activities and initiatives.

One such activity was our first roundtable discussion as part of the BV@M Webinar Series. Titled 'Blockchain and Covid-19', the virtual session covered discussions on opportunities and challenges Covid-19 presents, and how Blockchain technology can provide their much-needed solutions.

We believe Blockchain technology will continue to remain relevant and together we can brave this storm and fight Covid-19.

For any feedback on this Newsletter, do email me at [ibrahim@my-ijb.com](mailto:ibrahim@my-ijb.com). Thank you and Keep Safe, Mind Your Gap, Wash Your Hands and together let's embrace the New Normal.

## i2M Employees and BV@M Programmes to move to IIB Ventures

i2M Ventures Sdn Bhd (the custodian of BV@M) completed a realignment exercise on 1 May 2020 to transfer all employees of i2M Ventures and the company's programmes, including Blockchain Village at Medini (BV@M) into IIB Ventures Sdn Bhd (IIBV), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Iskandar Investment Berhad (IIB).

With the transfer, these specialised resources and programmes will be consolidated and expanded to offer more holistic solutions by the IIB group for our existing and future clients.

The GBS ISKANDAR and BV@M programmes were designed to create high-value and knowledge-based employment that will benefit the local community, the state and the nation - a goal that is aligned to IIB's corporate vision of building an inclusive and sustainable future metropolis.

'Building Bridges, Changing Lives' has been the foundation to position Medini and Iskandar Puteri as the regional and global destination for knowledge-driven and high-value activities. IIBV will continue to develop this positioning and look into new opportunities for value creation and business prospects within the group's targeted sectors.

All existing agreements and contracts with i2M Ventures will remain the same and continue to be fulfilled by i2M Ventures Sdn Bhd.

For any enquiries or assistance, kindly contact the following:

- **Investment Facilitation** : [salina@my-ijb.com](mailto:salina@my-ijb.com)
- **Corporate Communications** : [grace@my-ijb.com](mailto:grace@my-ijb.com)

## CORPORATE UPDATES

### BV@M's First Steering Committee Meeting Attended by Key Technology Drivers and Industry Development Stakeholders

Iskandar Puteri, Tuesday, 4 February 2020 - The management of the Blockchain Village at Medini (BV@M) hosted its inaugural Steering Committee Meeting in Iskandar Puteri today.

The roundtable discussion was attended by key technology drivers like MDEC and OK Blockchain, as well as industry development agencies like the Labuan International Business Financial Centre (LIBFC) and Johore's Economic Planning Division.

Amongst the topics discussed included:

- The endorsement of the Steering Committee structure
- The official appointment of the Steering Committee members inclusive of BV@M Pillar Leads and Deputy Leads
- The inclusion of Digital Johor, Bank Negara, MIGHT, as well as various Johor GLCs and Institutes of Higher Learning
- The development of BV@M promotional programmes

**BV@M Steering Committee**  
Advisory bodies of senior stakeholders & industry leaders to provide guidance & support in the development of the BV@M Ecosystem  
via 4 key pillars - Talent, Infrastructure Promotion & Policy

CHAIRPERSONS			
 <b>TALENT</b> Sustainable Blockchain Talent Development Programmes	 <b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b> Dedicated Infrastructures in Iskandar Puteri to host Blockchain companies	 <b>PROMOTION</b> BV@M as the preferred Blockchain hub	 <b>POLICY</b> Policies & regulations to support Blockchain industry development
LEADS & DEPUTY LEADS			
 MDEC	 MEDINI	 Invest JOHOR	 Labuan FSA
COMMITTEE MEMBERS (BV@M COMPANIES, UNIVERSITIES & FEDERAL/STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES)			
 OBC	 Transit Protocol	 UITHM	 MIGHT
 ICYCLE	 UTM	 MIDA	 
PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS			
 nem	 IBM	 1337	 FOXYMOJO
			 Mohamed Ridza & Co
SECRETARIAT / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE			

The Steering Committee was also updated with BV@M's current progress, with positive developments within all target areas. Targeted jobs and committed investment have respectively attained 58% and 37% of the annual target, while number of companies have increased to 2 out of the targeted 3 of large companies and 5 out of 45 SMEs. It was also laudable that the initial average salary aimed has moved beyond the expected RM6,000 per month to RM7,500 per month.

ACHIEVEMENTS TARGETS	Jobs Committed by 2022	Average Salary by 2022	Target Investment Committed by 2022	No of Companies
	1,200	RM6,000/mth	RM 562 m	3 LCs 45 SMEs
693 jobs (58%)	RM7,500/mth	RM206m (37%)	2 LCs (67%) 5 SMEs (11%)	

In addition, the BV@M initiative projected business leads and pipelines will contribute a further 290 jobs and RM105 millions of committed investments in the next few months. Two of these companies are leading regional technology-based companies providing blockchain-based Islamic applications and solutions for smart cities development.

# PILLAR UPDATES : TALENT

## OBC Mapping Malaysia to the World through Blockchain Technology

Washington, USA, Thursday, 27 February 2020 – Malaysia was put on the Blockchain map when the OBC CEO, Gen Matsudasan, was featured at the Conservation Political Action Conference 2020 (CPAC 2020), held in the USA early this year.

OBC's BCVote system, promoted through OBC's parent company, OKWave, was being selected as the primary voting system at CPAC 2020.

The online voting system is one of the first in the world to utilise blockchain technology backed with transparent crypto algorithms, and was developed by a pool of talented Malaysians at the OK Blockchain Centre in Medini, Iskandar Puteri Johor.

Benefitting from its collaborations with the Malaysian government, local universities and GLCs, OBC aimed to make Johor a blockchain development special zone.

For full coverage on this news, click [HERE](#).



## University Blockchain Awareness Campaigns via the Campus Connect Programme



BV@M will launch a series of awareness campaigns at selected Malaysian universities and polytechnics soon, under the Campus Connect Programme. MDEC's Premier Digital Technology Institutions (PDTI) programme have been identified as one of the programmes targeting 11 universities and 5 polytechnics across Malaysia.

Promoting Blockchain amongst technology students at these selected higher learning institutions will include introductory sessions to the technology, career and knowledge advancement prospects and possible internship opportunities with the companies at BV@M.



For further information please join our group Telegram [LINK](#) or contact our BV@M Project Director, Ibrahim Majid, at [ibrahim@my-iib.com](mailto:ibrahim@my-iib.com).

# PILLAR UPDATES : POLICY

## Blockchain Village at Medini (BV@M) Brands to be Trademark Registered



Iskandar Puteri, Friday, 3 April 2020 –The Blockchain Village at Medini (BV@M) brands will be sent for trademark registrations. This exercise will ensure that i2M or Iskandar Investment Berhad (IIB):

- Have the rights to all programmes and goodwill that have been established under the brand
- Have the rights to license the brand for services commercialisation and revenue generation purposes

In view of the transitioning of i2M into IIB, the BV@M brand will be trademarked under IIB, of which any trademark applications will be applied under IIB's name from the onset.

# PILLAR UPDATES : PROMOTIONS

## IIBV Invited as ACCESS Malaysia Committee Member

Cyberjaya, Saturday, 29 February 2020 – ACCESS Blockchain (MY) Association second Annual General Meeting resolved to extend an invitation to IIBV to be part of the association's Committee Members today.

As ACCESS (MY) Committee Member, IIBV will further champion the Blockchain technology amongst peers, other advocators and the industry as a whole, promoting it for both financial and non-financial areas. Seminars, technology dialogues and investment networking events are some of the activities to be held under the ACCESS (MY) banner.



ACCESS  
Blockchain  
Association

ACCESS Blockchain Association (MY) is a community of enterprises, consumers and technologists exploring and advocating blockchain and cryptocurrency in Malaysia. Founded in 2017, the association started from the grass root level on voluntary basis and is associated with ACCESS Blockchain Association Singapore and Indonesia.

# BV@M Held First Webinar Series: Blockchain and Covid-19

Virtual Roundtable, 8 May 2020 - BV@M kicked off its Webinar Series with a virtual roundtable discussion by the leading blockchain executives in Malaysia - Wei Chi Chan (Head of Business Development, Sinegy), Kenny Tan (Head of Strategy, Antchain), Harpreet Singh (Founder and CEO, BLOCKLIME), Ibrahim Majid (Project Director, BV@M) and Tom Throwbridge (President, Triterras).

The session was moderated by Jason Chew, the Managing Partner of Bitcoin Malaysia and was attended by 78 participants.

BV@M WEBINAR SERIES

## BLOCKCHAIN & COVID-19

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS

FRIDAY | 08 MAY 2020 | 11:00AM - 12:30 PM



WEI CHI CHAN  
SINEGY  
Head of Biz Dev



KENNY TAN  
ANTCHAIN  
Head of Strategy



IBRAHIM MAJID  
BV@M  
Project Director

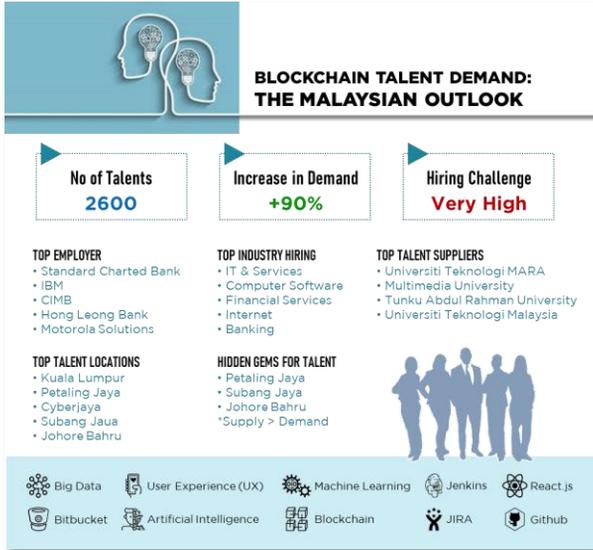


TOM TROWBRIDGE  
TRITERRAS  
President



HARPREET SINGH  
BLOCKLIME  
Founder & CEO

SUPPORTED BY:



Amongst the topics discussed were the potentials of Blockchain in Malaysia and how the technology can come to the aid of companies during the current health and economic crisis brought forth by Covid-19.

### Key challenges face by companies during Covid-19

- Companies are **conducting more business activities online**, with most of them considering Digital Transformation
- Companies must **consider new business models** with alternative Business Continuity Plans
- Company have to **restrategise their approach in client engagements**, including forming new partnerships to collaborate with
- Companies become **location-agnostic in delivering services**, particularly for software development companies and opting for **decentralisation of team structures**
- Companies **need more robust and reliable supply chains** to reduce business disruptions

### Issues and opportunities brought forth by Covid-19

- Companies are **not digitally ready** especially faced with supply chain disruption
- Businesses must innovate** and revisit their business plans and models
- Healthcare industry need more investment** in its tracking systems
- Enterprises need to put their businesses online** including transforming their Supply Chain methodologies
- International collaboration and sharing of trusted data** is imperative, primarily for informed decision making
- Education sector also needs improvements** with reliable info and infrastructure to aid secured and transparent eLearning platforms

### How Blockchain can assist

- Provision of trusted and secured data solutions
- Key solutioning in O2O (offline to online) strategies where data transparency and privacy are key
- Delivery of secured eLearning platforms, ensuring secure, transparent and legitimate data and credentials issued

### Blockchain industry is No. 1 most in-demand skills for 2020

Other high demand skills needed are Cloud Computing, Analytical reasoning, Artificial Intelligence and UX Design  
(Source: Linked In, Jan 2020)

### Skillsets needed and job opportunities available for Blockchain

- Abundant job opportunities in the Finance, Agricultural and Supply Chain sectors
- Industries that can benefit Blockchain data sharing solution - Government, Genetic Testing, Insurance, Pharmaceutical and Research Institutes
- However, there is limited talent pool in Malaysia
- Johor is hailed as a sweet spot for the Blockchain talent supply in the country

# UPCOMING INDUSTRY EVENTS

## Southeast Asia DeFi Week 2020

01.06.2020 - 05.06.2020

### Southeast Asia DeFi Week

5 Days. 5 DeFi Technologies. Same place.

MAKER, kyber network, MELON, AAVE, WBTC

Powered by: Blocklime, Bitcoin Malaysia, ETHKL, TELP, IVAN ON TECH, CoinGecko, ACCESS Blockchain Association

Following the success of Enterprise Blockchain Week 2020, we are pleased to announce Southeast Asia DeFi Week.

Decentralised Finance (DeFi) refers to an emerging and fast growing set of financial services built on open public blockchains and smart contracts.

**5 protocols to learn**

MAKER (DAI)  
Kyber Network  
Melon  
AAVE  
wbTC

**When**  
1-5 June 2020

**Where**  
Online Webinars

**REGISTER NOW**

Beginner friendly. Suitable for those with even zero knowledge of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technologies.