**UNIVERSITI OF TECHNOLOGY MALAYSIA**

**Industrial talk 1 - MDEC e-Rezeki**

**Date: 24th September 2018**

**Time: 4.00pm - 5.00pm**

**Location: Seminar Hall, N28a UTM Dept of IS**

**Introduction**

The talk was held by a reputable representative of Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), Mrs. Nor Ashikin bt Halil in the aim of promoting the programme e-Rezeki. e-Rezeki was recently introduced as Global Online Workforce (GLOW) for a step towards betterment. According to her,it is a programme aimed for the diversified and creative thinkers. For those who are willing to take a step forward to increase their income and to escape the world of being trapped in a office. The programme is started with a list of solid objectives. One of the main objectives is to produce an elite community in digital field. Next, introducing freelancing as an alternative career to Malaysian citizens through global digital platform. It has also set to become a supporting programme for digital workers in Malaysia in order to keep them motivated and committed towards generating digital income. Lastly, it is also aiming to become one of the top platform in marketing local talents and skills to global market.

**Discussion**

The speaker of the talk held who is only a diploma graduate,articulately elaborated on all the highlighted topic of the programme. She is an expert virtual assistant where all of the her work related jobs are done online instead of the ubiquitous 9 to 5 job in the office. In that note, as a virtual assistant, one can get the job done anywhere, anytime where time is completely the hands of the employee.

e-Rezeki is a programme held mainly emphasizing on virtual jobs which are jobs that are completed online, mainly through the use of internet. Using sites such as freelancer as a medium, tasks ranging from as simple as creating powerpoint slides to creating a specific program are posted. Users of the site will be matched to a list of tasks based on the information given by user when registering. The user will have to then choose a job based on their convenience. The description to the job and the dateline will be stated. Once the job is completed, the product will have to be submitted online. The employer will then give feedbacks until he is satisfied with the product. The payment for it will then be banked in online immediately after.

There are plethora of benefits for one who joins this program. Firstly, stating the obvious, one can generate more digital income. This can be done by taking it as a part time job while having another permanent job as a reassurance or taking it as a full time job. Besides, one can decide the job he’s about to complete instead of being hand-in the job by the employer as in supposedly reality. Surely the job chosen is based on one’s capability and overall situation at that time, which means there is lesser stress needed to be faced as one has already prepared for it. Since it is an online job, it can be done anywhere and at anytime. All that is required is a good internet connection.Similar to those self-employed one can determine their work schedule based on their daily activities and convenience. There is no need to request for holidays and waiting for the permission of the employer as one can even get the job done while vacationing which is the dream of the millenials based on a recent survey conducted by a research team.

Since Malaysia Digital Economic Corporation (MDEC) has collaborated with Global Online Workforce (GLOW), multiple exhibitions were held in different parts of Malaysia to promote the programme to ensure more people are aware of it’s establishment. Respectable and successful employees are usually invited to give a talk where listeners are made aware of the insights of the programme and all the potential benefits to be gained.The programme is also being advertised online to attract more online users. A page specifically dedicated to the programme with all the detailed informations are posted. Users can also register online immediately if interested. There are also several courses and training provided for those who are clueless about the digital world. Considering that not many can afford paying high amount of fee a free training called ‘fast track’ is provided. It is a training where an individual is mentored for two days then monitored online for another 10 days.Freelancers, workers from private sector that are currently jobless,homemakers and retirees with digital background are encouraged to join.The next free programme provided is GLOW@HLI’s where one is individually trained online.This programme is mainly directed towards the Bachelor graduate students. “HRDF” programme is another training provided which requires a certain amount of fees. The first package provided lasts for 12 days with 3 days of individual mentoring which costs RM 4,500. The second package lasts for 14 days with 5days of group mentoring which costs RM 2,500.Those registered under HRDF, freelancers and retirees are encouraged to join.Generally, to be a participant of this programme one has to possess a list of criterias. Having a background in Information Technology is encouraged. Applicants must also possess skill in graphic and multimedia. Knowing an extra foreign language in hand is also extremely welcomed.The evidence for the skills should be included in the resume in the form certificate or in the portfolio submitted. Participants must always be active in order to generate income. Having a good command in English is a must as being a freelancer requires one to constantly be in contact with employers from foreign countries.Lastly, one must have an email account, local bank account and a PayPal account as it will be a medium to transfer money globally and act as a virtual communication platform.

Table 1.1 Free Programme

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| PROGRAMME | DURATION | BENEFITS |
| GLOW@HLI’s | One semester | * One-to-one mentoring session * Member of Malaysia Freelancer Association (MAFA) |
| Fast Track | * Two days of individual mentoring * Online monitoring for 10 days | * Online individual mentoring session * Malaysia Freelance Association member (MAFA) |

Table 1.2 Paid programme

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| PACKAGE | AMOUNT | DETAILS |
| 12 days (3 days mentoring) | RM 4,500 | * Full time intensive training * 3 days individual mentoring session |
| 14 days ( 5 days mentoring) | RM 2,500 | * Full time intensive training * Group mentoring session |

The launch of this programme has impacted Malaysia as a whole in many aspects directly and indirectly. Since its launch, more individuals have been joining the program. The program definitely did make a vast impact on individuals from different walks of life. A long list of success stories can be found on the main page of Global Online Workforce (GLOW) website. Graduates of Bachelor’s degree from various fields join the programme to find themselves earning an amount up to RM 43,500 per month. The increasing number of individual joining the programme has produced a vast number of successful people. Employers from foreign countries are left with good impressions towards the local citizens of Malaysia as a result. Hence,bringing the country’s name to the eyes of the world.

**Reflection**

From the previous elaboration, the programme’s excellence can not be denied. It definitely served some of its aim and is en route to do the same for the rest. As for me, it was definitely thought provoking to sit and listen to the talk. I am person who adores simplicity and finding the most efficient way in solving problems. Being a millenial, I am keen to have a future that does not restrain me from living life to the fullest and being productive at the same time. Working as a freelancer means being self-dependant and bold enough to take risk. A forward thinker is always willing to take bold risks. I personally think more people will have to be willing to take such risks to attain maximum benefit out of it.This programme is set to make a huge positive impact on many individual’s life and these individuals who carry along our country, Malaysia’s name along with them are setting a good name. Part of Malaysia’s vision is to be technologically advanced in every aspect possible. Therefore, inclining to the digital and virtual world is a great step towards the vision. Malaysia can also be a example to other Asian countries for our advanced thinking as most of the countries from Europe such as Germany and United Kingdom are already practicing it. In fact, it is is norm is those countries to have a virtual job. In a nutshell, Global Online Workforce (GLOW) is a great programme to join to impact ourselves as an individual and setting Malaysia forward to greater success.

Source of information: 1) Global Online Workforce pamplet

1. Talk session held on 24/09/2018