

BUGFree

2011 / VOL 06
COMPLIMENTARY FROM MSTB

COVER STORY



Great opportunities ahead: YB Datuk Haji Fadillah delivering his Opening Speech at STST 2011 on October 27

Significant Opportunities in Software Testing

The software testing market presents an abundance of business prospects and players must get their act together to be able to make the most of these opportunities. With a national initiative to develop the industry already in place, Malaysia is well-poised to establish itself as a significant player in the global arena.

Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation YB Datuk Haji Fadillah Haji Yusof said market projections are indicating that the global software testing services market will be growing at a steady rate over the next few years.

In addition to that, the nature of software testing which is applicable and relevant

across all segments of society and sectors will certainly be a critical enabler to support our economic growth and transformation.

“Undoubtedly, software testing can contribute towards improving product quality, operational efficiency and profitability for organisations and increase our global competitiveness.

“There are great opportunities for us to make economic gains provided we get our act together, and the Malaysia Software Testing Hub (MSTH) initiative was incepted to help achieve these objectives,” he said in his official opening speech at the Software Testing Straight Talk 2011 (STST 2011) in Kuala Lumpur on October 27.

The one-and-a-half day event was organised by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister’s Department, in collaboration with the Malaysian Software Testing Board (MSTB).

Introduced in 2010, STST is a national-level forum which provides updates on development of the Malaysian software testing industry. At the same time, the forum seeks input from participants on issues crucial to the growth of Malaysia’s software testing industry.

Outcomes from discussions at STST will be taken as input in the formulation of future development programmes under the MSTH initiative.

■ At STST 2011 - Page 2

■ Training @ Q Lab - Page 3

■ Pilot Adoption of CTFL Syllabus - Page 4

STST 2011

Successful Conclusion of STST 2011 Forum

The Software Testing Straight Talk (STST) 2011 concluded on a high note on October 28, 2011 with clear indications of improved awareness on the importance and relevance of software testing and software quality assurance for better performance and improved gains by organisations across industries.

Delegates from various industry backgrounds participated actively in the workgroup breakout sessions and put forth a collective list of recommendations identified as crucial for the development of Malaysia's fledging software testing industry.

The recommendations cover four main areas of Policy and Governance, Human Capital Development, Stimulating Demand and Guaranteeing Supply. These suggestions will be analysed further and expanded on, if necessary, before being channelled as input to enhancement of existing programmes as well as formulation of new programmes to develop the industry under the Malaysia Software Testing Hub (MSTH) initiative.

The forum featured two invited international speakers from University of Memphis, USA. Professor Dr Jasbir Dhaliwal spoke on the topics of **Leveraging Academia-Industry Collaboration for Software Testing Innovations** and **Grooming Competent Industry Professionals** while



Leading the discussion: MSTB Director Michael Cornelius (standing) engaging participants at the 'Stimulating Demand' breakout track

Dr. Robin Poston presented a paper on **Software Testing as a Foundation for Operational and Business Efficiency**.

About 300 delegates from the public, private and academic sectors took part in STST 2011, which was organised by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister's Department, in collaboration with the Malaysian Software Testing Board (MSTB).



Intellectual discourse: The STST 2011 Discussion Panel comprising (from left) Professor Dr Jasbir Dhaliwal, Skali Group's Tengku Farith Tengku Rithauddeen, MAMPU's Dr. Azizah Manan, Dr Robin Poston and session chair Michael Cornelius



Straight talking: Professor DrDhaliwal expressing a point during his keynote address



Attentive crowd: Participants of forum listening to the keynote addresses



Sharing ideas: Discussion in progress during STST 2011 breakout session

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Promising Pilot Run with the Magnificent 7

The pilot implementation of the ISTQB's CTFL syllabus in seven universities across the country has begun. A total of 320 undergraduate students in the software engineering discipline at these universities, which I like to call the Magnificent 7, are expected to be involved over the current and next semesters. Taking the certification exam is optional but I am hopeful that all these students will, at the end of their courses, rise up to the challenge.

While the full impact of the pilot programme may only be ascertained a year from now, the programme is already showing some positive impacts, albeit outside of its intended scope.

It appears that getting the project off the ground is an achievement by itself. As described by Professor Dr. Zarida Hambali, Director of the Academic Development Management Division, Department of Higher Education (*Jabatan Pengajian Tinggi - JPT*); the project is a significant in the sense that project involves cooperation of multiple parties. It demonstrates the collaborative efforts to realise the intent.

Other than the seven universities and MSTB, the project also involved the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), the Ministry of Higher Education and the JPT, the ICT Dean Council (MaDICT)

and the international partner, the German Testing Board (GTB).

Indeed it was not easy to get project started – it took more than a year and countless discussions and meetings to get to this stage.

Meanwhile, at a workshop session to review of the course materials, which was developed by the GTB, one particular development caught my attention.

The lecturers were organising themselves into a small *Community of Practice* with the intent of continuous collaboration to share knowledge and to develop tools that would be of benefit to all. The lecturers themselves attested that this was the first time for them, being attached to different universities, to find a platform to work together for common benefits.

We did not plan for this but it is indeed a good thing. I believe through sharing of knowledge and experience, a lot more can be achieved. On MSTB's part, we'll do all that we can to facilitate. ☺



Q Lab

Hectic Training Schedule for Q Lab

It has been a busy period at the Q Lab over the last three months with a series of training and professional consultancy sessions lined up for various teams.

In August, a team went through Testing Maturity Model integrated (TMMi) training and assessment sessions while another group attended a five-day training on IBM Rational DOORS.

Briefing and consultancy sessions on ISO

29119 Software Testing standard were held in September. The sessions were helmed by Testing Group Solution's Stuart Reid, who is also the convener for the ISO 29119 working group.

A two-week training on processes by the Korea Testing Lab (KTL) was held from October 19 to November 4. The training was one of the tracks included the National Product Certification scheme initiative.



Enhancing skills: Training in progress for the Q Lab team

AROUND THE GLOBE

Expelled for Public "Demo" on OS Flaw

Charlie Miller, a researcher with Accuvant Labs, might have had a good intention with his public showing of exploitation of a flaw found in Apple's iOS operating system. Unfortunately, Apple does not take kindly to that and unceremoniously dropped Miller from its developers programme.

Reuters reported that Apple had sent an email to Miller sent late on Monday (Nov 7, 2011) that it was revoking his rights to develop iOS software for the iPhone and iPad, and would no longer distribute his programs through the App Store.

According to reports, Miller disclosed that he had figured out a way to build apps that can secretly download other programs that are capable of stealing data, sending text messages or destroying information.

Jaguar recalls cars over software fault

Online news channel Computer News Middle East reported (on October 25, 2011) that Jaguar has recalled nearly 18,000 X-type cars after it discovered a major software fault, which might cause drivers not be able to turn off the cruise-control function.

The report said the problem lies with engine management control software developed in-house by Jaguar. The problematic software is only installed on diesel engine X-Types, which were all produced between 2006 and 2010.

Academia Outreach

Seven Universities in ISTQB Syllabus Adoption Pilot

The Malaysian Software Testing Board (MSTB) and participants of the pilot implementation of the adoption of International Software Testing Qualifications Board (ISTQB)-compliant software testing syllabus for professional certification by local universities have formalised their collaboration with an exchange of memorandum of Agreement (MOA) ceremony in Kuala Lumpur on October 27, 2011.

The ceremony was held in conjunction of the Official Opening of the Software Testing Straight Talk 2011 by Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation YB Datuk Haji Fadillah Haji Yusof. Also stood witness to the occasion was Professor Dr. Zarida Hambali, Director of the Academic Development Management Division, the Department of Higher Education (*Jabatan Pengajian Tinggi*).

Seven universities are participating in the pilot programme and they are Universiti

Malaysia Pahang UMP), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM), Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

Four of the universities have already started the programme in the current semester while the remaining three will follow suit in the next semester starting in February 2012.

Under the Pilot implementation, participating universities would enhance their existing software engineering courses with a subject



One for the album: From left are Dr. Roslan Ismail (UNITEN), Prof. Dr. Mohd Aizaini Maarof (UTM), Tan Ping Ping (UNIMAS), Prof. Dr. Zarida, YB Datuk Haji Fadillah, Director of K-Economy, EPU Azizah Hamzah, Mastura, Assoc. Prof. Dr Jasni Mohamad Zain (UMP) and Dr. Kamal Zuhairi Zamli (USM)

based on ISTQB's Certified Tester Foundation Level (CTFL) syllabus. Participating universities are supplied with course materials developed by German Testing Board (GTB). The ISTQB-compliant course materials are being used in universities across Germany. The GTB is also extending professional supports on their materials.

The addition of this professional certification-leaning syllabus in the Malaysia's universities is one of the programmes planned under the Malaysia Software Testing Hub (MSTH) initiative to ensure a sustainable supply of competent software testing professionals to support the anticipated growth of the software testing industry.



Certified: Participants of the special CTFL training and examination session for lecturers pose for the camera with their trainer Ravindran Selvaraj (seated, second from left)

Lecturers Get Their CTFL Certification

Seven lecturers from universities participating in the pilot implementation of the adoption of International Software Testing Qualifications Board (ISTQB) software testing syllabus earned their Certified Tester Foundation Level (CTFL) after passing the examination held on October 26.

The examination as well as four-day training that came prior to it were specially arranged for the lecturers who are directly involved in teaching of the software testing subject.

Under the pilot project, lecturers who are involved in teaching the subject are required to have foundation level certification and they are encouraged to go for the advanced level certification (CTAL).

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief: Mastura Abu Samah
 Technical Advisor: Amiruddin Jaafar Sidek
 Editor: A. Shukor Rahman
 Creative Director: Badrullhishyam Abu Bakar
 Editorial Contact: bugfree@mstb.org



Malaysian Software Testing Board (MSTB) (822609-W)

A member of International Software Testing Qualifications Board (ISTQB)

Lot G-2, Jalan Kenari 12B,

Bandar Puchong Jaya,

47100 Puchong,

Selangor Darul Ehsan

Tel: +603-80763579 Fax: +603-80750334