**PRESS RELEASE**

**THE VIETNAM ITO CONFERENCE 2019**

**(Vietnam - The Emerged Destination for Innovation)**

***Ho Chi Minh City October 24, 2019:*** The Vietnam ITO Conference 2019 with the theme "Vietnam - The Emerged Destination for Innovation" is held at Tan Son Nhat Hotel, 202 Hoang Van Thu, Phu Nhuan District, Ho Chi Minh City. Under constant interest and steering of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, the 2019 VNITO Conference was jointly organized by the Ho Chi Minh City Investment and Trade Promotion Center (ITPC), Quang Trung Software City (QTSC) and VNITO Alliance on the purpose of promoting the potential and strengths of Vietnam's IT industry, providing information, data and assessments on Vietnam's IT market from reputable market/technology research agencies and institutions in the world, and facilitating trade promotion activities and business matching on the spot.

Vietnam is one of the most dynamic economies in Asia. The digital economy of Vietnam is growing top in ASEAN region at the rate of more than 40% per year (e-Conomy Report on Southeast Asia 2019 by Google, Temasek, and Bain & Company, October 2019). According to The Global Innovation Index (GII) in 2019, Vietnam ranked 42/129 countries being surveyed, jumped up 3 levels compared to 2018. The Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) of Vietnam made a 10-level up, the highest leap in the world, and was ranked 67/141 economies (WEF, 2019). Especially, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City are among the top 10 most dynamic cities in the world in 2019 (City Momentum Index (CMI), Jones Lang LaSalle 2019). Ho Chi Minh City became the first region to deploy 5G in Vietnam. This technology is expected to help the city accelerating the vibrancy and becoming a flagship in the national digital transformation strategy.

Mr. Lam Nguyen Hai Long, the Honorary Chairman of VNITO Alliance and CEO of Quang Trung Software City (QTSC), shared: “*Along with the rapid change of technology in the world, Vietnam is booming with 3,000 start-ups in 2019, ranking 3rd place in Southeast Asia, and continues to increase each year. Vietnam’s hi-tech companies are advancing abreast with the world latest technology trends in the Industrial Revolution 4.0, such as: Big Data, Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ ML), Internet of Things (IoT), Blockchain, Digital Transformation, etc. Moreover, the government of Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh City administration are also deploying projects in building smart cities across the country, promoting innovative start-up programs, and implementing projects to transform Ho Chi Minh City to a regional and international financial center. Those favorable conditions are of great advantages for Vietnam, especially for enterprises who want to provide products and services based on new technologies; as well as golden opportunities for Vietnam's IT industry to breakthrough becoming the leading ‘Innovation Hub’ in Southeast Asia.*"

Representing ITPC, a co-organizer of the event, Mr. Pham Thiet Hoa - Director said: “*Ho Chi Minh City has always been at the forefront of the wave of innovation and start-up boom, the number of start-ups accounts for nearly 50% that of the whole country. The city has also developed a four-year program (2016-2020) to develop a start-up ecosystem to support small and medium-sized businesses with competitiveness and global integration. As a bridge for investment cooperation between Vietnam’s companies and the world, ITPC commits to accompany and support Vietnam’s IT businesses to promote and introduce Vietnam's potential in new technologies to domestic and international investors. "*

The Vietnam ITO Conference 2019 also marks itself with a series of signing ceremony of cooperation agreements between the VNITO Alliance and 6 international organizations, including 3 from Japan: IT innovation and Strategy Center Okinawa (ISCO), Heart Industry Holdings & Japan International Students Committee, Fukuoka Information Service Industry Association (FISA); and 3 from South Korea: Korea IT Cooperation Center, Ho Chi Minh City (KICC), Korea Commercial Software Association (KOSW), Korea Trade Network (KTNET). It accentuates the international networking and partnering of the VNITO Alliance in promoting Vietnam's trade and business cooperation in IT sector to the two essential markets (Japan & South Korea) in particular and the world market in general.

This year, the Conference congregates more than 30 speakers from the world's leading corporations and companies (Qualcomm Inc., IBM APAC, NVIDIA, KPMG, Siemens, Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting, Global CyberSoft – A Hitachi Consulting Company, etc.) to discuss about the latest technology trends. And, for the first time, a senior technical director of Qualcomm Corporation (USA) participates with a keynote speech at the Conference - Ms. An Mei Chen (Tran My An). Ms. Chen has 25 years of experience in the wireless industry. She has worked on numerous advanced communication technologies for a variety of commercial products including: AI/ML, IoT, mobile broadcasting, health and advanced wireless and multimedia features. Ms. Chen is an gifted inventor with more than 400 patents granted in the United States.

The Conference’s main discussions include:

* **Session 01: “Enabling Innovation in Vietnam”** by Ms. An Mei Chen, Senior Technical Director of Engineering, Qualcomm, Inc. (USA). Ms. Chen will showcase Qualcomm's emerging technologies and vision for artificial intelligence, the edge cloud, and IoT industry. Do these new technologies provide development opportunities for Vietnam? Assessments of Vietnam's past and present efforts to provide helpful advice that will help foster an innovative ecosystem.
* **Session 02: CIO Global Survey “A Changing Perspective”** by Mr. Will Nguyen, Partner, Head of IT Advisory, Chief Innovation Officer, KPMG Vietnam. Mr. Will Nguyen will disclose research results from KPMG's recent survey of nearly 300,000 CIOs worldwide on trends in technology investment and digital transformation of businesses worldwide. The report provides an assessment of the opportunities that technological progress offers to technology leaders and business organizations in Vietnam.
* **Session 03: “How to build a collaborative innovation team for your business?"** by Mr. Mark Birch, Regional Director for APAC at Stack Overflow. He will share about how companies achieve digital transformation success by joining the world's largest developer community.

Last but not least, the Conference offers a series of diverse activities spanning 5 panel discussion sessions with the participation of top professionals of the industry and experts from prestigious trade promotion organizations of Korea, Japan, and Vietnam (TMA Solutions, Nashtech, AWS, LARION, Global CyberSoft – A Hitachi Consulting Company, DIGI-TEXX, S3 Japan, LogiGear, D-Ocean, KMS Technology, TESO, IMT Solutions, Lotus App, etc.). They will talk about highly-interested topics such as: Innovative solutions (AI/ML, Blockchain, Big Data, IoT, etc.), digital transformation solutions, tech talents/innovative geeks, developing Japanese market, cooperation between Vietnam and Korea in developing technological solutions.

The Conference is expected to attract more than 500 guests, including 150 international guests, enabling more than 200 business matching meet-ups between Vietnamese IT enterprises and potential partners through thousands of meetings and interactions at the event: seminars, technology exhibitions with 64 booths, gala dinner, company tours around technology zones and IT businesses, and VNITO Golf tournament.

For more details of the Conference, please visit our website: [www.vnito2019.vnito.org](http://www.vnito2019.vnito.org)

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