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► QSR Brands announces 3 key appointments



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QSR Brands (M) Holdings Bhd has appointed former banker Datuk Mohamed Azahari Mohamed Kamil (*picture*) as its MD effective Aug 1, 2017. The quick-service restaurant operator has also announced the appointments of CK Chong as CIO and Mizal Azman Malek as chief human resources officer. In a statement, QSR said the newly appointed team will chart a course for continued growth

alongside CEO for restaurants division Merrill Pereyra and CEO for upstream division Calvin Ang. Mohamed Azahari is entrusted to manage and oversee the overall performance of the group, reporting directly to chairman Datuk Kamaruzzaman Abu Kassim. Mohamed Azahari is a chartered banker of the Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers, as well as a chartered professional in Islamic finance. For more than 30 years, he has helmed senior management posts in various private and public organisations, including Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Bhd, Permodalan Nasional Bhd, Amanah Raya-JMF Asset Management Sdn Bhd, Asian Finance Bank Bhd and most recently, SEGi University and Colleges. QSR Brands is a franchisee of over 775 KFC restaurants in Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Cambodia. It is also the operator of Pizza Hut, with more than 390 restaurants and delivery concepts in Malaysia, and 80 restaurants and delivery concepts in Singapore.

► Christina Toh heads Dorsett Grand Subang



DORSETT Hospitality International Ltd has appointed Dorsett Kuala Lumpur area GM Christina Toh to be in charge of the group's upscale hotel in Subang, the Dorsett Grand Subang. She replaces Hugo Gerritse who is taking up a new posting with Agora Hospitality International in Japan, one of the group's business affiliations. In a statement, Dorsett said Toh is also overseeing

three hotels under the Silka Hotels brand in Malaysia: Silka Cheras Kuala Lumpur, Silka Maytower Kuala Lumpur and Silka Johor Bahru. She has been with the company since September 2001. She began her sales career in the hospitality industry with the Holiday Inn Penang before moving on to the then Regent Hotel Kuala Lumpur, which was later rebranded as Parkroyal Kuala Lumpur. Her last posting was as the area director of sales and marketing for Malaysia with the Parkroyal Hotels & Resorts Group before her first GM position with Dorsett Kuala Lumpur. Adele Ang will replace Toh at the newly renovated Dorsett Kuala Lumpur, badged as the group's flagship hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

► Zac Leow to push Rescale's regional expansion



RESCALE Inc, the San Francisco-based turnkey big compute solutions, has launched a Singapore office covering South-East Asia to be managed by Zac Leow. He has more than 20 years of regional experience in managing start-up company related to business applications and hardware infrastructure, the company said in a statement. His track record includes

bringing new solutions to local markets as well as experience in massively scalable applications, the Internet of Things, mobile apps, analytics, security, and cloud-hosted PaaS and SaaS applications. Singapore has fast become a high-tech digital hub for the region, and Leow will be working with local partners to promote Rescale's solutions to end users and information technology (IT) professionals across multiple industries, the company said. "Rescale is at the leading edge of high-performance computing and big compute in the cloud, and has the widest industry software support," Leow said. In the same statement, Rescale director of solutions Fanny Treheux said: "Singapore has always been a hub for high-tech, and Rescale is looking forward to engaging on solutions with local partners and tackling big compute problems from local companies."

MNCs provide talents with good career advancement

The large global multinational firms not only provide jobs to locals, but literally transform some of them

by ISHUN P AHMAD

MULTINATIONAL corporations (MNCs) have always been an important element of the Malaysian economy ever since the country embarked on industrialisation from a generally agrarian society. Panasonic, Toyota, Coca-Cola, Colgate-Palmolive and Nestlé are some household names known to most Malaysians.

In terms of economic contribution, MNCs have not only provided a steady stream of revenue to the government in taxes, but have also been important providers of highly skilled jobs.

And there is much more. These international firms, many of them with strong presence in Kuala Lumpur (KL), also provide employees a chance to gain global experiences through overseas job postings and other means. They enhance the value of the workers. They infuse in them skills and expertise that can literally transform some of them.

Here are some stories of transformation of Malaysians engaged with MNCs.

Schlumberger: Expert Programme

"I was the only one there who could not speak Portuguese and there were not many women colleagues around. It was a very interesting experience and trying to understand the bits and pieces of what was going on," recalls Anniza Soh from Schlumberger Ltd. In 2012, she was posted to Brazil.

"Coming from a small town in Malaysia to being someone in the engineering field mainly dominated by males, it was a good feeling. So the opportunity to come back and serve Malaysia was an opportunity to give back to the country what they had given me in the first place," said the testing and process field services manager.

A Petrolia Nasional Bhd (Petronas) scholar who pursued her degree at Universiti Teknologi Petronas, Soh joined an expert programme with Schlumberger in 2006. Her first posting was to Qatar where she served as a junior field engineer for three and half years, before being made a general field manager in 2011.

She is contented with her job and sees it as a good platform to excel.

"Right now I am doing a field manager position, which is a 'hot seat' in Schlumberger. This is where you will grow, where the learning curve is steep," she said.

Oil and gas (O&G) technology services firm Schlumberger has a long presence in the country. In 2010, it launched a financial hub in Malaysia. The presence of the



TMR pic

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Schlumberger is where you will grow, where the learning curve is steep, Soh says



We need more Malaysians to step up and hold more leadership roles in MNCs, Chia says



Pereira says employees also stand to benefit from the active exchange of knowledge from abroad

hub in Malaysia drove a major transformation in how the company provides financial support to its operating business managers in the O&G industry.

ServiceSource: Career Development

Another example of an MNC developing a local talent is Jonathan Pereira from ServiceSource International Inc. ServiceSource is a global company operating in eight countries with over 3,000 employees supporting more than 60 clients in some 35 different languages.

For Pereira, the company is a great place to work at with good opportunities for career advancement.

"The centre started in 2010 with 20 employees. Directors from San Francisco were impressed with what Malaysia can offer — a good pool of talents. This is also one of the reasons why they continue to invest here. Six years later, the company grew rapidly and the number of employees jumped to 600 from 20 when it first started," said Pereira, an operations manager at the company.

He said employees also stand to benefit from the active exchange of knowledge from abroad.

ServiceSource provides business-to-business (B2B) companies with expertise, technology-enabled solutions and best-practice processes to grow and retain revenue from existing customers. With a holistic approach to the entire revenue lifecycle, ServiceSource solutions help companies drive customer adoption, expansion and renewal.

Honeywell: Stepping Up

A similar "growth" story also

emerged from Honeywell International Inc. Chia Mei-Yin, a regional sales director, said the company provides her an excellent platform for career enrichment and advancement.

"Honeywell provides an excellent platform. Our vision is to be as close to our customers as possible. With this vision, we are growing as fast as we can in the region where we have business; and Malaysia is one of them," she said.

Starting as an account manager, she has moved up the ladder, being promoted to lead major projects for the region within a period of less than two years.

"Malaysia has a good talent pool and is competitive. On leadership, we need more Malaysians to step up and hold more leadership roles in MNCs," Chia said.

Honeywell is a technology and manufacturing company. Its businesses are involved in aerospace, home and building technologies, performance materials and technologies, and safety and productivity solutions.

Honeywell started its operations in Malaysia in 1985. It currently employs over 1,450 employees in six cities across Malaysia, namely Kuala Lumpur, Petaling Jaya, Shah Alam, Penang, Kemaman and Johor Bahru.

The KL Magnate

The expansion of the likes of Schlumberger, ServiceSource and Honeywell to KL involves InvestKL, a government agency driving the investments of MNCs in KL.

Set up in 2011, InvestKL has successfully attracted 64 MNCs with a total approved and committed investments of RM8.9 billion. The invest-

ments have created more than 9,300 regional highly skilled jobs, according to statistics from the agency.

These included 13 MNCs which InvestKL secured in 2016, with RM3 billion in approved and committed investments, and a creation of 1,863 regional jobs. The MNCs are from Europe (five), Asia-Pacific and Gulf regions (five), and the US (three).

Among the 13 MNCs that have established regional centres in KL are Switzerland's Novartis International AG (global service centre); the US' Oracle Corp (inside sales and business development hub for Asia Pacific) and Oceaneering International Inc (regional head office for Asia Pacific); German-headquartered Voith GmbH (Asean regional centre and centre of competence); Spanish-based Técnicas Reunidas SA (regional hub for Asia Pacific); and China's Amer International Group (commodity trading hub).

In just six years from 2011-2016, RM3.2 billion or 36% of the RM8.9 billion investments have been realised. In addition, 5,233 or 56% of the 9,335 high-skilled regional jobs are already on the payroll. Of these, 4,318 or 83% employed are Malaysians with an average annual income of RM114,000.

For 2017, InvestKL's target is to attract 10 MNCs.

With more MNCs coming to KL, we can expect more transformation taking place in the vibrant metropolis, and the cultivation of more bright local talents to emerge in the various scenes, from engineering to technology.

Of course, it is not an overnight process. It is a marathon, not a sprint. And KL continues to be in the running.