Proposal for PyCon APAC 2021

Key Highlight:
- Hosting Country: Malaysia
- Leading Community: PyCon MY
- Target Location: Kota Kinabalu
- Target Date: 18th-19th September 2021
- Target Audience: 200

1. <u>Motivation:</u>

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, PyCon APAC 2020 that was supposed to be held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, was forced to go online. One of the main reasons Kota Kinabalu was chosen is because it has more to offer to the delegates as a tourist destination. Apart from attending the conference, delegates can tour around the city as well.

Next year, the venue will be in Kota Kinabalu still, as PyCon Malaysia has made booking to the venue and the vendor agrees to let us postpone the event.

PyCon APAC 2021 @MY planned to be a 2-day event. We anticipate to have 25% of data science related projects, 25% of python core library related, 20% of devops/SRE related topics, 10% of security/system administration related, 10% of embedded system and 10% of community based presentation.

To embrace the diversity in the application of Python, we have also included some new events as the satellite tracks of the conference event. As Python is gaining popularity in embedded system and young coders, the proposed conference will include:
- Showcase of Micropython related Projects
- Open Space
- Young Coder's Camp
- Sprint that includes editing documentation or translating documentation.

1.1 History:

Malaysia had our first major PyCon MY in 2015, after its first mini PyCon in 2014. The experience that we gained in 2014 and 2015, made us realized that getting the Python community to get together for a few days in a year to share knowledge and compare experiences allows the growth of ideas, and also exchange of skills, which will lead to a spillover of greater cooperation even after the conference is over. Stronger ties between developers and users of Python can be nurtured better with a real human interaction during the conference period, is definitely a big plus to the community.

However, providing a space for a few days in a year for people to get together doesn't seem to be enough. In order to allow us to continue hosting future PyCons and being transparent in fund allocation (especially concerning sponsorship monies), on 17th Dec 2015 we have incorporated PYCON MY PLT (LLP0006642-LGN) as a Limited Liability Partnership under the laws of Malaysia*.

To date, The functions of PyCon MY PLT are managing the fund allocation, and the operations, together steer the direction of PyCon MY, so that it keeps the continuity and sustainability of the growth of the Python communities in Malaysia. Having that missions, PyCon MY PLT has hosted several PyCons including:

- Mini-PyCon 2014 (1 tracks, 50 participants, 4K MYR)**
- PyCon MY 2015 (1 track, 128 participants, 13K MYR)
- PyCon MY 2016 (2 track, 95 participants, 39K MYR)
- PyCon APAC 2017 (2 tracks, 188 participants, 110K MYR)
- PyCon MY 2018 (2 tracks 120 participants, MYR 25K)
- PyCon MY 2019 (2 tracks 140 participants, MYR 60K)
- PyCon APAC 2020 (2 online tracks, 180 participants, MYR 20K)

*Note: the information inside the column is shown in the following forward: number of tracks, number of participants, and the income of the conference)
**Note: please refer PyCon MY PLT (https://pycon.my/about/pycon-my-plt/) for more details)

1.1.1 Why do we deserve a chance for hosting PyCon APAC 2021?

1. Malaysia is in the middle of APAC countries.
2. The growth under represented groups such as female developers in MY communities had been constantly increased everywhere. At the same time, we will have a female chairing PyCon APAC 2020, which probably will be the first female chair in APAC.
3. Connection flights are plenty.
4. We have successfully hosted PyCon APAC 2017.
5. As of now, we have gathered more than 15 volunteers.
6. Cost in Malaysia is comparatively cheaper than other countries.
7. Python is being picked up by the education sector since the Malaysian government announced its initiative in reforming Information Technology education. Students from high schools and universities start using Python as a medium of programming. Hence the number of students participating has increased over the years.
8. We would like to host the event again in 2021 since our physical event was disrupted by an unprecedented pandemic, Covid-19. More importantly, the venue was planned to cater for APAC delegates.

1.1.2 What are contributions from PyCon MY to the APAC communities?

To date, we have:
1. Successfully promoted diversity in PyCon MY.
2. Successfully increased the female participant in the previous PyCon MY over the years.
3. Successfully showcased our event to some of key enterprise figures in Malaysia.
4. The number of participants for PyCon MY increased consistently.
5. Been actively engaging with PyCon communities in the APAC regions through attending and speaking at the conference in the regions such as: PyCon in HK, JP, ID, KR, PH, SG, TH, TW.

2. Organization

PyCon MY annual event is currently operating under the umbrella of PyCon MY LLP, an entity that manages the event and allocates funds for the operation before and during the event. The key member for PyCon MY LLP consists of :

1. Hilmi Bakhari
   Board Representative of PyCon MY PLT
   PyCon MY Organizing Chair 2018.

2. Tang Ing Wei
   Bank Officer of PyCon MY PLT
   PyCon MY Organizing Chair 2019

2.1 Team members for Organizing Team:
The team members for PyCon APAC 2021 organizing team, together with the mentioned responsibilities:

1. Organizing Chair: Ivy Fung
2. Organizing Co-Chair: Hilmi Bakhari
3. Finance: Hilmi Bakhari
4. Sponsorship: James Tang and Ivy Fung
5. APAC countries leaders liaison: James Tang
6. Program and Call-for-Proposal: Ahmad Mohd. Syazwan and Jean Francois Queralt
7. Speakers liaison: Ahmad Mohd. Syazwan
8. Ticketing: Tong Dong Ling, Hilmi Bakhari
9. Marketing, Design and Publicity: Siti Nuraini binti Mohd. Azman and Jessy Woon
10. Venue and Logistics: Lim Wen Yan, Tiong Keiyan, and Mihna Zahir

Apart from the mentioned members above, who will be present at the conference venue, we also intend to recruit from various communities such as Women Who Code (WWC), KLJavascript (KLJS), KL Devops, EngineerMy and Kinabalu Coders, as well as volunteers from the universities. 10 - 15 volunteers will be required in addition to the members mentioned above. It is worth to mention that most of the members in the organizing team are the members who had assisted and volunteered in PyCon MY 2019.

3. Conference Event:
The proposed structure of the conference event will be in the following structure:

3.1 Proposed Date for the event:

- 18 - 19 Sept 2021

3.2 Proposed Venue:

Pacific Sutera, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

3.3 Proposed Satellite Event:
Apart from the conference, we would also like to take the opportunity to showcase some of the satellite events during the conference, such as:
- Embedded System showcase (application of Micropython)
- Tutorial Workshop (Data science related topics)
- Pre-event Dinner/Social Dinner.
- APAC communities Dialogue session.
- Open Space (Informal Discussion/Demonstration on Python related topics)
- Development Sprint (Documentation on interested projects)
- Education Summit

3.4 Proposed Keynote Speaker:

The Proposed Keynote Speakers are as follows:
- Keith Packard (Creator of Snek)
- Audrey Roy Greenfeld (Author of "Two Scoop of Django")
- Luciano Ramalho (Author of "Fluent Python")
- David Beazley
- Brett Slakin (Author of "Effective Python")
- Mariatta Wijay
- Damien George (Creator of Micropython)

3.5 Expected differences from previous PyCon APAC conferences:

One major difference that we would like to highlight in this APAC conference is we have prepared a platform for the attendees to demonstrate their project for embedded systems, written in Micropython. This event welcomes projects from different age groups, as well as different levels of coding experiences. We have to highlight that the attempt has not been materialized in other conferences.

4. Sponsorship Details:

We have prepared a list of sponsors that we would like to approach for the sponsorship. Together in section 5.2, we also prepare a copy of the proposed budget to justify the amount that we need for the operation of the conference.

4.1 List of proposed sponsors:

The proposed sponsors that will support the funding and operation of PyCon APAC 2020 can be categorized as such:

International:
- Python Software Foundation
- Jetbrain
- ElasticSearch
- Red Hat
- Jublia
- Hennge (previously known as HDE)
- NuLabs
- Traveloka
- Shopee

Local:
- SolutionX
- Microsoft MY
- AirAsia
- JewelPayment Tech
- Mindvalley
- OnApp
- Google MY
- AirAsia.com

We also proposed the following Sponsorship Packages:
- Titanum: RM 12000 (x 1) Total MYR12,000
- Platinum: RM 10000 (x 2) Total MYR20,000
- Gold: RM 8000 (x 3) Total MYR24,000
- Silver: RM 6000 (x 5) Total MYR30,000
- Bronze: RM 4000 (x 7) Total MYR28,000
- Proposed TOTAL MYR114,000

Some of the mentioned sponsors above have supported us for many years. Hence we are confident to secure the sponsorship from the sponsors mentioned above.

4.2 Proposed Estimated Budget (confidential): (1 USD = 4.17 MYR (28/8/2020))

Items	Unit Price (MYR)	Units	Total (MYR)
Income			
Ticket sales	320	300	96,000
Sponsors			
Titanium	12000	1	12,000
Platinum	10000	2	20,000
Gold	8000	3	24,000
Silver	6000	5	30,000
Bronze	4000	7	28,000
Total Income			**210,000**
Expenditure			
Venue & food	350	350	122,500
PA system rental	10000	1	10,000
Photographer	1800	1	1,800
Videographer	1800	1	1,800
Peatix fee			1,100
Advertisement			1,000
T-shirt	25	350	8,750
Lanyard	1	350	350
Banner	30	10	300
Keynote Speakers Fee	500	2	1,000
Keynote Speakers Travel and Accommodation	3000	2	6,000
Speakers Financial Aid	700	30	21,000
Appreciation dinner	120	50	6,000
Accomodation for volunteers	2	500	1,000
Entertainment			800
Logistic			500
Financial Aid	300	50	15,000
APAC Fund			4,000
MISC			7,000
Total cost			**209,900**

5. Information About the host country:

Malaysia, located in the center of SouthEast Asia, has always been one of the favourite spots for travelling. Due to the cultural diversity, Malaysia always offers an unforgettable experience and journey to the tourists who have visited Malaysia. Apart from being famous for a variety of food, Malaysia also offered diverse cultural events that give an unforgettable experience to the visitors who visit Malaysia.

5.1 Visa:
The information for entry visa can be found via:
https://www.imi.gov.my/index.php/en/visa/visa-requirement-by-country.html

5.2 Getting Around in Malaysia:
Getting around in Malaysia has been straightforward since Malaysia provides different means of transportation. For such, due to different cities proposed in the "Venue" section, hence we would like to highlight the mode of transport for each city mentioned in sec. 3.2:

Kota Kinabalu:
Airlines: Air Busan, Air Seoul, AirAsia, Cebu Pacific, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines, Eastar Jet, Jeju Air, Jin Air, Lucky Air, Malaysia Airlines, Malindo Air, Royal Brunei, Scoot, SilkAir

Land Transport:
1. Taxi (includes Grab E-hailing Service)
2. Rented Car
3. Bus

5.2 Communication SIM card:
Malaysian Telecoms such as Celcom, Digi, Maxis and U-Mobile do offer attractive packages to the visitors arriving in Malaysia. The SIM card can be easily available at the airport or any convenient store. Alternatively, Malaysia Telecoms also partners with other foreign telecoms to offer affordable roaming packages.

5.3 Suggested Accommodation:
Malaysia offers a wide range of hotels, which includes budget, mid-range and high-range hotels. The lists of hotels can be found easily from the following websites:
1. Booking.com
2. Agoda.com
3. Trivago.com

Apart from the hotel, attendees can also seek for their accommodation through AirBnB, which provides affordable accommodation for attendees.

6. Response Procedures for Pandemic COVID-19:

COVID-19 situation doesn't improve (or have gotten worse) since the proposal was sent and international and domestic travel is still restricted. In this situation, what are your alternative plans? Do you plan to do an online conference? Do you plan to cancel the conference? How will you manage your alternative plans?

In the situation that COVID-19 situation doesn't improve and the travelling restriction is not lifted, based on the experience that we have obtained from the previous PyCon APAC 2020, we believe that we are agile and flexible enough to switch from the physical conference to the online conference. The deciding key that switches from the physical conference to online conference will be based on the latest health policies and advice from the domestic ministry of health.

As we have undergone the preparation of PyCon APAC 2020 virtually, our infrastructure and runbook are prepared and updated to respond to any chances on the event preparation due to the latest situation of COVID-19.

In the event that we are allowed to host the physical conference, we will conduct a hybrid conference since according to the Malaysia National Security Council[1], the maximum number of participants allowed is 200. Therefore we might need to admit the delegates based on the first-come-first-serve (FCFS) to the physical conference, while for the rest we will encourage the delegates to attend the virtual activities through our streaming platform.

COVID-19 situation relatively improves and conferences have generally been re-started in the host country. In this case, how will you prepare for the "new-normal" to ensure the safety of your attendees? Will you reduce the number of attendees and execute Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)? What SOPs will you be following and from what authority? Will you be working alongside a competent authority in your country to ensure the safety of your attendees?

Although at the time this proposal is revised and written, the global situation for Covid-19 is worrying, and we cannot speculate how the pandemic develops. However, in the event that situation for COVID-19 improves and the local government allows physical gathering and conference, we will adhere with the standard operating procedure from the Ministry of Health. As stated in the previous statement, current maximum participants allowed in the conference are 200.

Hence to prevent spreading of Covid-19 during the conference, we are all advised to follow the standard operating procedures from the Malaysia Minister of Health[1].

These are key guidelines that we need to follow in order to conduct the conference, as from the Malaysia Ministry of Health:

1. Require the foreign attendees to conduct a swab test before entering the conference.
2. Record the body temperature of the attendees,
3. Maintain social-distancing of 1 meter within conference events and venues.
4. Scan MySejahtera barcode, a tracking web app that records the attendees location.
5. In any event that the attendee does not adhere to any mentioned SOP, the attendee will be barred from attending the event.
6. In any event that a potential COVID-19 case is detected, the organizing team will:
   a. Terminate the event immediately
   b. Contact the nearest hospital where the event is hosted.
   c. Contact the embassy/consulate/economic & cultural office/higher commission of the attendee/s if the attendee/attendees are not Malaysians.
   d. Track all the attendees so that all attendees comply with the regulations and complete 14 days self quarantine.

For the latest SOP, please refer to Malaysia Minister of Health website:
http://covid-19.moh.gov.my/garis-panduan/garis-panduan-kkm

What will be the deciding factor(s) for you to decide on the execution of your alternative plans or SOPs and its tentative timeline? Please indicate what will be your deciding factors for you to switch to your alternative plans and SOPs to protect your attendees and its tentative timeline.

The deciding factors that will affect the execution of the alternative plan will be:

1. The latest development of COVID-19 cases in Malaysia
2. The local health policy of COVID-19 in the hosting city.

Reference:
1. https://asset.mkn.gov.my/web/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/08/SOP-Majlis-Sosial-6-Ogos-2020.pdf