PPG DIGITAL IT INDUSTRY TALK

Overview of PPG, Data Analytics, Global Infrastructure & SAP

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This industry talk introduced students to PPG's Digital IT organisation, showcasing its global presence, technology-driven operations, and strong internship-to-career opportunities. Speakers from Data Analytics, SAP, and Global Infrastructure shared real project use-cases, cloud strategies, and digital transformation efforts that support PPG's USD 15.8 billion business across 70 countries. The session emphasized PPG's commitment to sustainability, community engagement, and developing young digital talent—making it an attractive employer for students pursuing IT, data, and engineering fields.

INTRODUCTION TO PPG

- 140+ year old Fortune 500 coatings and materials company.
- Operates in 70+ countries with USD 15.8B revenue.
- Malaysia Digital IT Centre in Shah Alam supports global operations.
- Diverse team (41% female, 59% male) including many UTM alumni.
- Strong focus on ESG, sustainability, and STEM community programs.

CONTENT OF TALK

DATA ANALYTICS

- Role: Enables data-driven decisions for global operations.

  Use Cases:
- Marine Fouling Navigator (predicts ship bio-fouling).
- Complexity Analysis Tool (manages sourcing & inventory risks).
- Skills Needed: SQL, Python, data modelling, ELT, DevOps.
- Key Lesson: Real datasets are large-scale, industry requires tuning, failure recovery, and stakeholder communication.
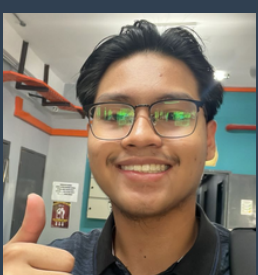
GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE

a. Structure
- Plan – partner with business teams for long-term IT strategy.
- Build – develop and deploy solutions.
- Run – 24/7 operations, global scale.

b. Cloud Strategy
- Cloud-first policy.
- Uses: Azure, AWS, VMware on AWS, Oracle Cloud, Alibaba Cloud.
- Tools include Azure DevOps, Terraform, Python, JavaScript, SonarQube, etc.

SAP Center of Excellence

- Role: Provides a unified view of financials, sales, manufacturing, and supply chain.
- Focus: Migrating 30-year-old SAP system to SAP S/4HANA on AWS.
- Core Processes: Procure-to-Pay, Demand-to-Replenish, Order-to-Cash, Report-to-Report.
- Connect PPG Project: Unifying 30+ ERP systems globally.

REFLECTION

This career talk deeply expanded our awareness of how crucial ICT is in shaping modern industry. We learned that ICT professionals don't just "support" the business they also power the systems that enable companies like PPG to operate globally. The examples shared by the speakers were eye-opening data analytics models that prevent supply risks, cloud systems that keep global operations running 24/7, and SAP platforms that unify every business process from procurement to customer delivery. These real-world cases showed us that ICT is directly linked to business revenue, operational stability and sustainability. The talk also motivated us because the speakers explained how curiosity, problem-solving skills, and hands-on experience matter more than grades alone. Seeing former interns grow into specialists and team leads inspired us to view ICT as a field with strong career growth and global opportunities.
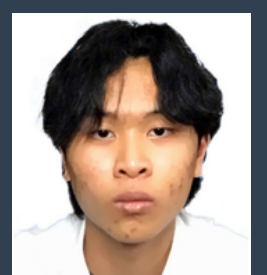
MUHAMMAD IQBAL BIN FAIZAL
A25CS0277

AHMAD AZRULAMIN BIN SHAMSURI
A25CS0175

MUHAMMAD AMIR IQMAL BIN MOHD YUSOFF
A25CS0264

SHARIFUDDIN NAFIS BIN HIZAM
A25CS0348

MUHAMMAD FARIS IQBAL BIN SHARIFFUDDIN
A25CS0270