

PPG Digital IT

Malaysia Technology Center

Introduction

The industrial talk was conducted by the PPG Digital IT team, featuring speakers from Data Analytics, Cloud Infrastructure, and SAP. They shared insights into PPG's 140-year history as a global coatings leader, operating in over 70 countries. The session highlighted how PPG supports various industries from automotive to architectural landmarks like the KLCC Twin Towers, while fostering a collaborative work culture. Students also learned about the career growth and skill-building opportunities available, giving them a clearer view of how PPG can shape their professional future.

Executive Summary

The PPG Digital IT industry talk was a detailed description about the technology activities happening in the company in Malaysia, aimed at filling the gap between the theory and the industry practice in academia. The team of three major technical departments was present in the session Data Analytics, Global Infrastructure and SAP Center of Excellence. The speakers in the Data Analytics segment focused on the move of raw data into business actionable insights, giving real-life examples of Global Marine Hull Navigator and Supply Chain Control Towers. The students were presented with the essential skills needed in this industry, in particular, they were shown SQL and Database Design as essential needs along with such data visualization tools as Power BI. The Global Infrastructure presentation described the operational strategy, Plan, Build, Run of PPG and the strategy of Cloud Only. The session covered how the company uses the help of such leading platforms as AWS, Azure and Alibaba Cloud, as well as outlined the trends in the future including AI-Driven IT Operations and Autonomous Infrastructure.

In the case of SAP (Enterprise Resource Planning), the discussion described how ERP systems bring together the essential business operations, such as Finance, Human Resources and Production, into a single source of truth. The speakers explained the targeted business streams (e.g., Procure-to-Pay, Order-to-Cash) and the currently underway transformation project, called Connect PPG, to integrate their global systems. The last task of the session was related to Talent Development, where it was explained that PPG has a strong internship program that has been functioning since 2018. The interviewees emphasized that academic performance matters, but PPG focuses on candidates who are curious, flexible and can apply theoretical knowledge to a real-life situation, where outstanding interns are usually transformed into part-time employees.

PPG Digital IT - Career & Learning

- Industry Professional Mentors**
 - ensure you gain real-world experience
- Cross Functional Experience**
 - work with different business functions and projects
- Work on Global Projects in Real Time**
 - real-world projects & training with certifications available
- Join PPG as Full-time Employees**
 - interns will be considered for full-time employment

SAP Center of Excellence

- Key Business Streams:
 - Procure-to-Pay (P2P)
 - Demand-to-Replenish (D2R)
 - Order-to-Cash (O2C)



Data & Analytics

- Master Data
- ERP Analytics
- Data Lake Analytics
- MLOps



Future IT Infrastructure Trends

- IT Infrastructure Evolution
- Current Cloud Technologies
- AI-Driven IT Operations
- Edge Computing Role
- Business Adaptation
- Autonomous Infrastructure

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Reflection

This industry talk highlighted the critical gap between academic assignments and industry reality. We learned that while university projects often use small, clean datasets, the real world requires managing millions of complex data points, making SQL and Database Design essential skills. Additionally, gaining exposure to SAP (ERP) systems and Autonomous Infrastructure provided a clear roadmap of the technologies driving global businesses. Finally, the session motivated us to pursue PPG's internship program, which prioritizes adaptive problem-solving over textbook memorization.