

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **JOHOR CORPORATION SIGNS MOU WITH IIT MADRAS GLOBAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION TO EXPLORE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR APPLIED AI IN JOHOR**

**JOHOR BAHRU, 26 FEBRUARY 2026** – Johor Corporation (JCorp) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Madras Global Research Foundation (IITM Global) to explore the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Applied Artificial Intelligence (CoE-AAI) in Johor, Malaysia.

The collaboration marks a strategic step in strengthening Johor’s position as a regional hub for responsible and industry-driven artificial intelligence innovation, aligned with the broader development agenda of Ibrahim Technopolis.

Under the MoU, **both parties will explore collaboration in the following areas:**

- 1. Conceptualising a Johor-based Centre of Excellence focused on fairness, transparency, safety, explainability and AI governance.**
- 2. Applied research initiatives in AI and emerging deep technologies.**
- 3. Executive education and professional capability-building programmes.**
- 4. Faculty and expert exchanges.**
- 5. Startup engagement, technology transfer and commercialisation.**
- 6. Industry testbeds and pilot use cases in Johor.**

IITM Global is expected to contribute technical expertise and global best practices in applied AI and deep-tech innovation, while JCorp will serve as the strategic anchor in Johor, facilitating ecosystem access, policy alignment and industry linkages.

**Ahmad Yusri Mohamed, Chief Digital Officer of Johor Corporation, said:**

“Artificial Intelligence will be a defining capability for future industries. This collaboration strengthens Johor’s ambition to become a leading AI-driven economy in the region by embedding responsible and applied AI capabilities across our industrial ecosystem.”

**Mohammad Najmie Noordin, Chief Talent Officer of Johor Corporation, added:**

“The proposed Centre of Excellence will serve as a strategic platform to accelerate talent development, industry collaboration and innovation-led growth. It aligns with our commitment to future-proof Johor’s workforce and build deep-tech capabilities that create long-term economic value.”

The MoU, signed on 7 February 2026, is exploratory and non-binding in nature and will remain valid for one year, subject to mutual extension.

*-Ends-*

**MEMBINA DAN MEMBELA**

## **ABOUT JOHOR CORPORATION**

Johor Corporation (JCorp) is a Value-Driven Organisation with total assets in excess of RM25 billion as at end FY2024. JCorp's flagship companies; KPJ Healthcare Berhad, JLand Group Sdn Bhd, Johor Plantations Group Berhad, QSR Brands (M) Holdings Bhd and Johor Capital Group Sdn Bhd, spearhead the Group's interests across five core sectors namely Wellness & Healthcare, Real Estate & Infrastructure, Agribusiness, Food & Restaurant, and Patient Capital.

Its mission and purpose of creation – '**Membina & Membela**' or **Creating Value, Enabling Sustainable Communities**, has driven remarkable growth and community development across Johor and Malaysia. This mission is reinforced through JCorp's social impact arms, Yayasan Johor Corporation and Waqaf An-Nur Corporation Berhad, whose initiatives positively impact the environment and communities.

To learn more about JCorp, please visit [jcorp.com.my](http://jcorp.com.my) or follow [@johorcorporationofficial](https://www.instagram.com/johorcorporationofficial) on social media.

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### **PHOTO CAPTION**

	
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### **MEMBINA DAN MEMBELA**