Building on the tempo set by its inaugural edition in 2018 in positioning Kerala as a global digital hub, the big-ticket Digital Summit #FUTURE2020 will be held at Hotel Grand Hyatt in Kochi on April 2 and 3. Billed as the country’s largest such conclave, the biennial event will see convergence of achievers, professionals, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders in the knowledge industry from across the world to discuss key topics, challenges and opportunities in a global order dominated by digital technologies.

Launching the website of #FUTURE2020 recently, S D Shibulal, Co-founder, Infosys and Chairman of High Power Digital Advisory Committee (HPDAC), Government of Kerala, said the core purpose of this event is to inspire and energise people in the journey towards a knowledge-driven digital future.

Nobel laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo are among the speakers invited to the event. “Towards a Digital Future” is the theme of the meet, which will feature 35 high-profile panelists from across key sectors and 2500 delegates.

“This event is happening against the backdrop of increasing use of digital technology across industries. Every industry will continue to create more and more jobs that require digital skills. Being a digitally savvy and well-connected State, Kerala is an ideal destination to be a digital hub,” Shibulal noted. He added #FUTURE2018 made a head start by presenting Kerala’s strength before a global audience.

V K Mathews, Chairman, IBS Software, and Convener, #FUTURE2020, said it is significant that this event is taking place when the life and business are hugely impacted by digital technologies. “We are living in times of deeply unsettling changes, which also hold opportunities. The functioning of economies, organisations and individuals are significantly changing. The economy is being driven by the ability to collect, analyse and use massive amounts of digital data,” Mathews said.


“We are planning to make the forthcoming edition of the event more impactful than the previous edition. There will be a Startup Zone at the venue for select startups to showcase futuristic innovations,” said M Sivasankar IAS, Secretary, IT & Electronics, Govt. of Kerala. He said the conclave will be a platform for thought leaders to come together and discuss the future of Kerala.

Prominent panelists invited to the meet include Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Aayog; Dave Calhoun, Chairman, Boeing; Douglas Steenland, Chairman, AIG; John Chambers, Ex-Chairman and CEO, Cisco; Harish Manwani, Partner, Blackstone; Santhosh Mathew, Country Lead, Social and Public Finance Policy, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Thomas Kurian, CEO, Google Cloud; Rajesh Gopinath, CEO, TCS; George Kurian, CEO, NetApp and Amitabh Khosla, Director, IATA India.

For details, log on to: www.towardsfuture.in
UST Global has been honoured with Glassdoor Employees’ Choice Award, recognising the company as one of the Top 100 Best Places to Work in 2020. In addition to this, the company is also featured among the top 31 tech companies in this year’s ranking.

The Employees’ Choice Awards programme, now in its 12th year, is based solely on the input of employees, who are elected to provide feedback on their jobs, work environments and companies on Glassdoor, one of the world’s largest job and recruiting sites. UST Global employees gave an average of 4.3 out of 5 in their reviews for working in the company. UST Global is a fast-growing organisation that provides advanced digital transformation services, products and platforms to Global 1000 and Fortune 500 enterprises around the world.

“We are honoured to be recognised by Glassdoor as one of the Best Places to Work in 2020,” said Krishna Sudheendra, Chief Executive Officer, UST Global. “This award, based entirely on reviews from our employees, is a testament to the dedication and hard work of each and every team member,” he added.

“This year marks the shift to a culture-first decade in the workplace, and Glassdoor’s Employees’ Choice Awards winners are employers that are prioritizing culture, mission and employees at the heart of everything they do. By doing so, their employees have spoken and are recognising them truly as the Best Places to Work in 2020,” said Christian Sutherland-Wong, Glassdoor President, Chief Operating Officer and incoming Chief Executive Officer.
C

laySys Technologies recently
opened its campus at Infopark.
Hormis Tharakan, former DGP
of Kerala, inaugurated the main build-
ing of the campus. Founded in 2010 at
Infopark with less than 20 employees,
ClaySys has now become an IT major
with 250 employees, catering primarily
to the US market.

The company has, over the years,
made its mark in the field of automa-
tion technology. The firm’s software ap-
plication development platform called
ClaySys AppForms is a next-generation
platform building business software
applications faster with better security
and ease of maintenance features. The
ClaySys AppForms platform also has a
Robotic Process Automation Module
which enables automation of many
manual tasks using software robots.

The company’s clientele consists of
IT majors and Fortune 500 compa-
nies, including Facebook, Deloitte and
JP Morgan Chase besides mid-sized
international companies.

BUILDING WITH A DIFFERENCE

The building of ClaySys at Infopark
Phase 2 has some uniqueness. A
major part of the glass facade of the
building is covered with solar panels
which makes it one of the first such
buildings in India. The solar panels
can generate 50 kilowatts of power
that would help meet more than 30
per cent of the energy requirements of
the building.

The ClaySys Campus was con-
structed using next generation
construction technologies that have
been utilised in Kerala for the first
time. The heat insulation specifica-
tions used in the construction ensures
energy efficiency. With the heat
insulation specification of R20, the
building requires less than 30 per cent
of the energy for air conditioning, as
compared to traditionally constructed
buildings without heat insulation.

The entire design, development and
construction of ClaySys campus were
executed by the ClaySys Lifestyle
Pvt. Ltd., the construction arm of the
company.

“The ClaySys IT Campus is de-
signed to offer an embedded club and
recreation centre within the office
itself, to provide the right work-life
balance for our staff. Being an interna-
tional company, we have staff working
at odd hours to support clients around
the world, and having the right facil-
ties at the office ensures the appropri-
ate options for leisure activities while
in the office itself,” said Vinod Thara-
kan, MD, ClaySys Technologies.

“The opening of ClaySys campus
at Infopark is a great milestone. Once
the campus gets fully completed, more
than 3000 job opportunities will be
created,” said Sasi P M, CEO, IT Parks
Kerala. He said the Phase 2 campus of
Infopark is almost nearing completion
and is already housing companies like
Cognizant, Trans Asia, Pi Datacen-
ters, Jyothirmaya, Caspian Techparks,
among others. “Also, more facilities are
coming up in Phase 2 like an interna-
tional school, shopping mall, hotels,
multiplexes, convention centre etc.,” he
added.

PINMICRO HELPS MAKE KOCHI DESIGN WEEK A ‘SMART EVENT’

The recently-held Kochi Design
Week (KDW) turned out to
be a one-of-a-kind event by using
IoT-enabled smart technology that
improves visitor experience by
carrying out real-time analytics for
managing proceedings.

A Japanese startup, Pinmicro,
a location-based solution provid-
er founded by a Malayali, helped
achieve this feat. The Tokyo-based
firm, headed by Tiby Kuruvila, pro-
vides solid platforms for O2O, retail
business, contactless payment and
inventory management. Pinmicro’s
EventPlus platform was used at the
KDW, which attracted around 5500
visitors. Its use has smoothened the
proceedings involving sessions for
individuals to learn and interact
like workshops, panel discussions,
keynote speeches, exhibitions and
interactions with the industry
experts, and explored ways towards
building sustainable infrastructure
for Kerala.

Ravindranath Ange Veetil, CEO
of Pinmicro, India, said EventPlus
employs Bluetooth low-energy IoT
hardware placed at strategic loca-
tions at an event’s venue, capturing
real-time location information. “It
is then processed on the EventPlus
cloud to generate real-time insights
and operational event dashboards,”
he added.