

SME WEEKLY NEWS

(24 May 2021 – 28 May 2021)

Countries	Highlights
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>Maxis launches UsahaWIRA SME digitalisation programme</p>	<p>MAXIS launched its UsahaWIRA programme, which is aimed at helping SMEs accelerated business reactivation and build resilience through digitalisation. As part of the programme, Maxis will be rolling out a series of initiatives and relevant content with a focus on the SME Digitalisation programme and incentives by MDEC. These initiatives will showcase success stories of real-life ‘UsahaWIRAs’ (hero entrepreneurs) that are already reaping the benefits of the grant and digital solutions to inspire thousands of entrepreneurs across Malaysia. There are four initiatives under the Maxis UsahaWIRA programme i.e. Ronda-Ronda Ketemu UsahaWIRA which is a TV series featuring entrepreneurs and their digitalisation stories; a short film titled “UsahaWIRA” which puts the spotlight on three hero entrepreneurs who overcame their challenges by digitalising their businesses; “Tanyalah Maxis”, where Maxis Business and MDEC will release various content pieces including bite-sized TikTok-style videos to answer SMEs’ questions on digitalisation and grant; and lastly “Spark UsahaWIRA”, which is a full-day event featuring big names in the industry who will share their journey on digital entrepreneurship and host multiple workshop sessions.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: Digital News Asia, 25 May 2021)</i></p>
<p>SINGAPORE</p> <p>Singapore launches digital roadmap for M&OE industry</p>	<p>Singapore unveiled the Industry Digital Plan (IDP) for Marine & Offshore Engineering Industry (M&OE), to help digitise about 1,000 enterprises and upskilling more than 75,000 employees. Director for SMEs Go Digital programme at IMDA, urged industry players to seize the opportunity to kickstart their digitisation journey by tapping on the IDP, which served as a roadmap through the whole process. Jointly developed by Enterprise Singapore (ESG) and the IMDA, the IDP was developed based on consultations from industry players in 2020 which showed that SMEs were keen to streamline operations and maximise productivity through digital tools. In line with the needs of the industry, the IDP comprises two roadmaps – the Digital Roadmap charts out different digital solutions SMEs can adopt at each stage of their business growth and digital maturity; while the Digital Training Roadmap offers a corresponding training roadmap for employees, to equip them with the right skill sets. The M&OE IDP includes specially curated solutions such as Workforce Optimiser, Project and Scheduling Management, and Asset Monitoring and Management System. Companies who have adopted such solutions have seen productivity improvements and better time management by employees.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: Future IoT, 26 May 2021)</i></p>
<p>PHILIPPINES</p> <p>BPI to offer no-collateral loans</p>	<p>To entice more borrowers from agriculture sector, Bank of the Philippines (BPI) has opened a loan program to SMEs with no collateral and fewer documentary requirements. Through this initiative, BPI is encouraging agriprenuers to use its targeted funding solutions to meet their financial requirements for working capital, successful trade, or plans for business expansion. In particular, BPI wants agriprenuers to set up a business deposit account and take advantage of its online banking platform for easy transactions with their clients and suppliers given the mobility and quarantine restrictions. The bank also aims to reduce the challenges in borrowing money by coming up with an SME term loan program, which requires fewer documents, with no collateral requirements, and faster turnaround time. BPI is also working with Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) and Globe myBusiness to introduce other opportunities and national programs for local enterprises. Meanwhile, BPI also recently signed MoU with the Department of Trade and Industry to reach out to more entrepreneurs, help them bounce back, and further promote financial inclusion.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: Manila Bulletin, 26 May 2021)</i></p>