

# SME WEEKLY NEWS

(26 April 2021 – 30 April 2021)

Countries	Highlights
<p><b>MALAYSIA</b></p> <p><b>SME Association, Pikom, Huawei to train 10,000 SMEs for digital adoption</b></p>	<p>SME Association of Malaysia, together with Pikom and Huawei Technologies Malaysia Sdn Bhd, will offer digital skills training to 10,000 SMEs this year. The training, which will involve entrepreneurs and employees, is to equip SMEs with digital skills to ensure they remain relevant and contribute to improving the post-pandemic economy. President of SME Association, Datuk Michael Kang Hua Keong said currently, there are still not many SMEs that use digital technology in their business, making it difficult for them to increase their income this time. The skills upgrading training will be conducted under the Huawei Asean Academy and it is free of charge for most of the training modules. The training programmes offered will include guidance on industry trends to raise general information and communications technology awareness, ecosystem talent enablement to offer technical training and certification, and skills improvement for members of the SMEs and tech community. Through the National e-Commerce Strategic Roadmap, a total of 231,365 SMEs received e-commerce training last year and that number exceeded the government's initial expectation of 50,000 SMEs.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Malaysian Reserve, 27 April 2021)</i></p>
<p><b>THAILAND</b></p> <p><b>AP Thailand kicks off 'AP ScaleUp' Batch 1 to bring Thai SMEs up to speed</b></p>	<p>AP (Thailand) Public Company Limited recently kicked off "AP ScaleUp 2021 Batch 1 project" where 30 Thai SMEs enrolled into a programme designed to build on their businesses and bring them up to speed to grow together with AP. The project seeks to upskill SMEs with a new know-how in collaboration with KX Knowledge Xchange of King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, and SEAC. Together, they will open up pilot markets where prospective customers and business partners connect through the AP community of more than 270 residential projects. AP Thailand will use its strengths to support the 30 SMEs to build on their businesses and succeed together. For example, the strength of AP community under the care of SMART (the property management arm of AP) comprised of more than 270 residential projects, over 80,000 families, across Bangkok; the technology developed by AP or the coaching plan prepared to reskill and upskill in up-to-date business knowhow. AP Thailand Group is confident that 'AP ScaleUp' will be another programme to empower SMEs to keep abreast with the future while enabling them to develop products and services needed by customers and well as to expand their customer base into AP community.</p> <p><i>(Source: Bangkok Post, 27 April 2021)</i></p>
<p><b>INDONESIA</b></p> <p><b>BRI Microfinance Outlook boosts RI's microfinance, SME sectors</b></p>	<p>Microfinance institutions (MFI) are one of the solutions to restoring Indonesia's current economic growth. The role of MFIs is important, especially amid the uncertainty brought by the pandemic. As an institution that is the pioneer of the microfinance program in Indonesia, BRI strives to maintain and develop the conditions of the microfinance industry. The BRI Microfinance Outlook is part of BRI's commitment to supporting the growth of MSMEs amid economic uncertainty. Data from the Cooperatives and SME Ministry shows Indonesia was home to around 62 million microentrepreneurs in 2018. The country has 757,000 small businesses, 58,600 medium enterprises and 5,500 corporations. The contribution of MSMEs to Indonesia's GDP has exceeded 62%, equivalent to Rp8 quadrillion (US\$550.59 billion). In 2021, the Government will focus on providing support for infrastructure needs, funding and market access for the development and recovery of MSMEs. This support is provided both through policies and corporate actions, as well as integrations between existing SOEs to make them more efficient for the advancement of MSMEs.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Jakarta Post, 29 April 2021)</i></p>