

SME WEEKLY NEWS

(6 May 2019 – 10 May 2019)

Countries	Highlights
<p>MALAYSIA</p>	<p>Oracle targets more SME customers with new hub</p> <p>Software firms, Oracle Corp Malaysia Sdn Bhd is targeting more SMEs via the services it provided at its newly launched cloud solutions hub. Servicing both SMEs and large corporations, the hub is supported by a range of state-of-the-arts tools and facilities to tap emerging technologies such as Blockchain, Internet of Things, machine learning, artificial intelligence, data analytics as well as autonomous databases to drive business value and growth. To drive growth further, the hub is being developed to include regional technical cloud centre focused on delivering Industry 4.0 solutions to enable more companies to adopt innovative and customized application.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(The Star Online, 10 May 2019)</i></p>
<p>THAILAND</p>	<p>Thai SMEs digital readiness third in the region</p> <p>According to a study commissioned by Cisco Systems and partnered with Office of Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion (OSMEP), Thailand ranked third following Malaysia and Singapore in terms of digital readiness of SMEs. Besides that, in the Digital Maturity index, Thailand is placed at Stage 1 which is defined as digitally indifferent, reactive market with no automation. Cisco is partnering with OSMEP to help SMEs to increase their digital capability by offering online courseware in particular heat-map analytics of visitor for retail and Internet of Things for manufacturing. Cisco's collaboration with OSMEP would benefit 200,000 SMEs to enhance their digital capabilities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Bangkok Post, 8 May 2019)</i></p>
<p>SINGAPORE</p>	<p>Secure connectivity the new growth strategy for SMEs</p> <p>Even though three in five SMEs in Singapore admitted that cyber security breaches have resulted in business disruptions and data leaks over 1-2 months period, they are slow to take up measures in protecting them. Therefore, one of the key themes in Budget 2019 are introducing measures to help local firms build deeper digital capabilities and solutions.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(The Business Times, 7 May 2019)</i></p>
<p>VIETNAM</p>	<p>SMEs need to identify their problems in order to develop</p> <p>SMEs encountered various difficulties in developing their business especially in terms of accessing banking credit, tax reporting, and transparency in accounting, human resource management and building brands. Therefore, focus should be in providing training to enhance their capabilities. SMEs in Vietnam played a significant role in the country's socio-economic development, creating 1.2 million jobs and contributing to more than 40 percent of GDP. According to Ministry of Finance's statistics, Vietnam has more than 600,000 firms with 96% in the small and medium scale.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Vietnam News, 10 May 2019)</i></p>

BANKING ON RENEWABLE ENERGY



Pancore Power Sdn Bhd shows no sign of slowing down although it is one of the earlier companies having completed and launched a small hydro plant under the Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA). The company recently launched the 6 megawatt (MW) capacity Sungai Slim Small Hydro Scheme and is now completing a 5.25 MW project in Sungai Kampar.

The company chose to be in the hydro business as it feels that it is their edge as it has initial experience in setting up its infrastructure.

What Pancore Power Sdn Bhd aspire to achieve are promoting and spreading the social and environmental benefits and the efficiency of Renewable Energy while preserving sustainable growth. Pancore Power also stresses on preserving nature whereby all the trees that need to be cut down will be relocated and the company will also replant the trees which had been cut down.

Access to financing is among the challenges faced by the company as banks struggles to understand the renewable energy business models. Other than that, the company also faced geographical limitations and access to remote areas. Renewable energy is the way forward and Bank Negara is urged to promote this niche industry.

(Source: 6 May 2019, The Star)