

## SME WEEKLY NEWS

(4 May 2020 – 8 May 2020)

Countries	Highlights
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MALAYSIA</b></p> <p><b>Half of SMEs will downsize, restructure after MCO, says survey</b></p>	<p>More than half of the country's SMEs will either downsize or restructure their businesses when the movement control order (MCO) is lifted. A recent survey by the SME Association of Malaysia found that 23% of SMEs would downsize their businesses after the MCO while 28% said they would restructure – with only 19% believing they would be able to resume operations as usual. A total of 4,280 SME representatives from across the country participated in the survey titled "Voices of the Malaysian SMEs on Sustainability &amp; Survival during MCO". Other key findings from the survey show 57% of the businesses reporting zero income during the MCO and 40% stating their revenue had dropped by at least half. Around 36% of the SMEs said they had enough cash flow to last until the end of May, 21% until end of June and 17% until July. Among the initiatives to alleviate short-term cash flow problems faced by SMEs during this period include the Special Relief Facility (SRF), for which Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) has allocated RM5 billion.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Edge, 7 May 2020)</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THAILAND</b></p> <p><b>B36bn in SME soft loans drawn down</b></p>	<p>About 22,000 SMEs have taken out 36 billion baht in soft loans sponsored by the Bank of Thailand since the application period opened. SME borrowing averaged 1.6 million baht per customer, and 74% of borrowers are smaller SMEs living upcountry. The 500-billion-baht soft loan scheme is part of the third phase of relief measures. Under the two-year loan scheme, the central bank will charge commercial banks 0.01% interest to re-extend lending to SMEs with a maximum credit line of 500 million baht at 2%. The government is also absorbing the interest cost to SMEs who receive soft loans for six months. SMEs eligible for the soft loans must also operate domestically, be non-listed companies and still have been servicing debt or making late payments within 90 days of the end of 2019. Aside from soft loans, all SMEs with a credit line of up to 100 million baht are automatically offered a six-month grace period on principal and interest to alleviate the impact to small and mid-scale SMEs, which are an important source of employment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: Bangkok Post, 8 May 2020)</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SINGAPORE</b></p> <p><b>Digital marketing support for SMEs added to e-Commerce Booster Package</b></p>	<p>The e-Commerce Booster Package administered by Enterprise Singapore (ESG) has been enhanced to provide funding for digital marketing services and manpower for SMEs under the programme. SMEs will now get one-time funding support of 90% for digital-marketing advisory services for 3 months and additional support for manpower to build up in-house capabilities for sustained digital-marketing efforts. The advisory services can include analysis of the retailers' existing digital business models and assets, development of digital-marketing plans and optimising of marketing efforts on social-media channels. Retailers that have not applied for manpower support previously under the e-Commerce Booster Package can apply to get 90% subsidies for the costs to hire three staff for three months, to work on digital-marketing capabilities. Improving their digital-marketing skills will enable SMEs to remain agile and adapt to customer preferences, which will help them increase customer loyalty and attract new customers, he added.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: Business Times, 6 May 2020)</i></p>