

SME WEEKLY NEWS

(27 September 2021 - 1 October 2021)

Countries	Highlights
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>The Artisans Haven, Affin Bank offer Smart Solutions for SMEs homegrown businesses</p>	<p>THE Artisans' Haven (TAH) has partnered Affin Bank Bhd to launch its smart Solutions Services. TAH said the e-commerce platform for local artisans and entrepreneurs' vision is to support digital adoption among small homegrown businesses, particularly in e-commerce area. As part of this collaboration, TAH has curated 15 useful business solutions to offer, in support of fellow SMEs on SME Colony. TAH targets to increase its offerings of Smart Solutions to 30 by June 2022. As such, TAH offers three-way solutions, namely Technology, Innovation and Self-help; coming in with services such as cybersecurity services. Other solutions include SMEs insights on staff training and motivation. Its Smart Solutions services also include personal development services which tap into health and fitness, a one-stop gateway for scholarships by Scholarships2U, and a proprietary stock market trading software known as SMART ROBIE by Trade VSA. Meanwhile, business services include delivery by TUUDI Parcel, bulk purchases by DCR Marketing Sdn Bhd, credit ratings by Experian Information Services Malaysia Bhd and a live chat platform at Wannatalk.ai.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Malaysian Reserve, 30 September 2021)</i></p>
<p>VIETNAM</p> <p>Pandemic-hit businesses need preferential loans, more support</p>	<p>Private Economic Development Research Board (Board IV) Survey in August 2021 found that 69% enterprises and business households had to suspend operation due to the pandemic. Most of them are small and micro enterprises. Prior to that, the Hanoi SME Association, when surveying 1,500 member companies, found that 57% were operating at a moderate level, 2.6% suspended operation or were following procedures for dissolution and only 1.4% reported good operation during the pandemic. The revenue of many SMEs dropped by more than 50% during the fourth wave. Most SMEs are suffering from capital shortage. More than 40% businesses said they only have money to maintain production for less than a month in the Board IV's survey. Business households are the most vulnerable with 45% of them having enough money to maintain business for less than one month. The figure was 39.5% for limited and joint stock companies. While SMEs are in dire need of financial sources to maintain and resume operation, its very difficult for them to access bank loans. Commercial banks blame this on the lack of transparency of SMEs' finance reports. Meanwhile, businesses don't have assets to mortgage for loans, which means high risks for banks.</p> <p><i>(Source: Vietnam.net, 30 September 2021)</i></p>
<p>CAMBODIA</p> <p>Khmer Enterprise (KE) and SME Bank of Cambodia signs MoU to promote and develop SMEs in Cambodia</p>	<p>Khmer Enterprise partnered with SME Bank of Cambodia to to promote and develop SMEs and to amplify the impacts within Cambodian business community. Under this cooperation, Khmer Enterprise and SME Bank of Cambodia are committed to jointly support SMEs through (1) Participation in any events that are organized for promoting and developing SMEs or entrepreneurship; (2) SME Bank to provide clean loan (without collateral) up to USD50,000 to SMEs of grade A & B which Khmer Enterprise refers to; (3) Work on promoting and enhancing access to finance for Cambodian SMEs; and (4) Conduct co-branding activities to disseminate information on access to finance for SMEs in Cambodia. As a unit under the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Khmer Enterprise works with different partners and stakeholders to enhance the competitiveness and innovation of startups and SMEs. As a commercial and a policy bank, the SME Bank of Cambodia strives to implement all activities to facilitate SMEs in Cambodia to get access to affordable financing.</p> <p><i>(Source: Khmer Times, 29 September 2021)</i></p>