

SME WEEKLY NEWS

(6 September 2021 - 10 September 2021)

Countries	Highlights
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>SME advocate moots tailoring recovery roadmap to business segments</p>	<p>SME circumstances varied wildly by sector and would benefit from specific assistance policies beyond the overarching National Recovery Plan (NRP), said National Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association Malaysia (NAWEM) as the pandemic has not affected all sectors equally, noting that some were thriving even as others neared collapse. The NRP and the National Recovery Council are good first steps to start off the national recovery effort but SMEs need to be segmentised and put them in stages of business evolution to be able to come up with clear recovery roadmaps. NAWEM also urged the government to carry out a study with other stakeholders such as academics, NGOs, entrepreneurs to come out with a business outlook or specific policies to help revive or boost local businesses. The business landscape has changed. Businesses which have done well before may no longer be relevant in this post pandemic times. Thus, it is important for everyone to put their heads together and see what businesses are good post pandemic.</p> <p><i>(Source: Malay Mail, 9 September 2021)</i></p>
<p>THAILAND</p> <p>EXIM Thailand recommends SME exporters embrace digital tech</p>	<p>EXIM Thailand highlighted how the pandemic has driven the transformation of consumer behaviours & business operations environment to digital technology. Moreover, online trade, domestically and internationally, has recorded a leap-frog growth. EXIM Thailand urged the public and private sectors to accelerate integrated cooperation to promote Thai entrepreneurs, particularly SMEs, so that they can use digital technology to respond to their customers' needs more efficiently. In 2020, the global economy and trade was hit hard by the crisis with a GDP contraction of 3.2%. But, e-commerce worldwide expanded by more than 20% from \$3.4 trillion in 2019 to \$4.2 trillion in 2020 and is expected to move up to \$4.9 trillion in 2021 and \$7.4 trillion in 2025. This reflected the role of digital technology in sustaining the economy during its downturn but acting as a springboard for the economy to boom in its upturn. At present, at least 50% of consumers shop online, and more than 40% of consumers view online entertainment programmes more frequently than before. Thus, SMEs have to be confident in trying out digital technology and services to strengthen their businesses and help them weather challenges and grasp fresh opportunities.</p> <p><i>(Source: Bangkok Post, 6 September 2021)</i></p>
<p>CAMBODIA</p> <p>KE, AmCham join forces on SME ecosystem</p>	<p>The government-funded Khmer Enterprise and American Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia (AmCham) forged a partnership that will centre on building and promoting a sustainable and workable ecosystem for SMEs and entrepreneurs in the Kingdom. A MoU was signed which solidifies a cooperative relationship whereby both have reciprocal commitments to support a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem and cultivate entrepreneurial activities driving innovation and value-added creation in Cambodia's economy. The MoU creates a collaboration framework with an agreement to hold joint and co-branded events, training workshops, seminars, business matchings, business promotions, pitching events and entrepreneurial culture promotions. Under the MoU, AmCham will provide capacity upgrading, mentorship and share information on American business in Cambodia. The chamber would also provide expertise and resources to help and support the improvement of SMEs and start-ups in Cambodia.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Phnom Penh Post, 6 September 2021)</i></p>

PHILIPPINES**Pampanga LGU
starts vax rollout for
SME owners,
employees**

The city government here will start to vaccinate owners and employees of SMEs against Covid-19 pandemic as part of its intensified inoculation program. The Mayor highlighted the importance of vaccination for SMEs, particularly owners of barber shops, sari-sari stores, vulcanizing shop and many more. Under the city program, SME employers and workers can now receive their Covid-19 jabs by submitting a copy of their business permits or barangay permits, and by enlisting the names of their workers, to be coordinated and forwarded to the City Planning and Development Office (CPDO) located at the Mabalacat City Hall. The CPDO said that all establishments whose workforce have received complete Covid-19 doses will receive safety certification from the city government.

(Source: Philippines News Agency, 6 September 2021)

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