

SME WEEKLY NEWS

(21 March 2016 –25 March 2016)

Countries	Highlights
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>MITI Minister: Capacity building programmes to be organised for SMEs to gear up for TPP</p>	<p>The Government will organise capacity building programmes for SMEs to bolster their capabilities under the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). There would be programmes in assisting SMEs especially in the manufacturing sector, to shore up their defences in the face of foreign competition under the trade pact. Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI), YB Dato' Seri Mustapa Mohamed said even though the interests and privileges accorded to local SMEs were assured under the TPP, some SMEs in the manufacturing sector might face challenges. There are 645,000 SMEs in the country, of which 90 per cent are from the services sector and many SMEs in the services sector are protected (under the TPP). However, there are 37,000 SMEs in the manufacturing sector and some of them might face challenges.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Malay Mail Online, 24 March 2016)</i></p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>Matrade plans SME programmes this year for TPPA</p>	<p>The Malaysia External Trade Development Corp (Matrade) has planned programmes to help SMEs export their products this year, benefiting from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA). The programmes include trade promotion and exporter development. The exporter development programmes will focus on SMEs' export capacity development and e-Commerce platform, especially in high-value sectors such as oil and gas, aerospace, maritime and medical. Matrade would also collaborate with SME Bank, Exim Bank, SME Corp. Malaysia and Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit (TERAJU) to provide financial assistance to exporters.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Star, 21 March 2016)</i></p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>RM27bil GST collected from April to Dec 2015: Najib</p>	<p>The Government has collected a total of RM27.012 billion through the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from April 1 to Dec 31 last year, said Prime Minister YAB Datuk Seri Najib Razak. The money collected will be distributed to all states and agencies through the annual Budget. The allocations will be used to implement various development projects across the country, including rural areas for the benefit of every segment of society. The Government had spent close to RM300 million to ensure the smooth implementation of GST in developing the MyGST system, issued GST training grants, and subsidised GST-compliant accounting software meant for SMEs. RM94 million was spent on subsidies to purchase GST-compliant accounting software meant for SMEs, managed by SME Corp. Malaysia.</p> <p><i>(Source: New Straits Time, 21 March 2016)</i></p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>Heatwave a blessing for some in Malaysia</p>	<p>While some are wishing for the heatwave to end, others are loving it. In Kampung Nelayan Bagan Sekincha, the hot weather is perfect for drying salted fish and it also results in better tasting fish. In Kuala Terengganu, the scorching heat is putting smiles on the faces of keropok entrepreneurs. Many of them, including SMEs in Pengkalan Setar here, view the El Niño phenomenon a blessing in disguise as their keropok dry faster and their income is soaring. In Kuantan, the scorching weather was also welcomed by salted fish suppliers who were happy as their products would dry faster.</p> <p><i>(Source: Asiaone, 25 March 2016)</i></p>

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<p>THAILAND</p> <p>Krungthai Bank urges Thai SMEs to venture abroad</p>	<p>The international (external) market is not looking positive for agricultural products while the (internal) purchasing power in Thailand remains weak. SMEs needed to expand their overseas reach because the prospects for growth in the domestic market are limited. However, local banks are still able to find new SMEs as their customers, especially construction and logistics firms that are part of the supply chains of big corporate firms. SMEs in the construction sector had good (business) momentum in subcontracting jobs from government projects and private construction & property projects. Banks and state agencies have numerous plans to assist Thai SMEs finding business partners via business-matching activities.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Nation, 21 March 2016)</i></p>
<p>SINGAPORE</p> <p>Budget 2016: SMEs get help, more corporate income tax rebate, extension of Special Employment Credit scheme</p>	<p>SMEs in Singapore will get more support from the Government to succeed in a more competitive environment while contending with tighter labour constraints. These include raising corporate income tax rebate from 30% to 50% of tax payable, capped at \$20,000 each year for Year of Assessment 2016 and 2017. The Special Employment Credit (SEC), which was due to expire this year, will also be modified and extended to the end of 2019, with a top-up of \$1.1 billion. This will provide employers with a wage offset for workers aged 55 and above who earn up to \$4,000 a month.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Straits Times, 24 March 2016)</i></p>
<p>INDONESIA</p> <p>S&P: Risk of bad loans remains for local banks</p>	<p>According to a Standard and Poor (S&P) study, Indonesia's loan growth is unlikely to pick up significantly this year despite declining lending rates, as risks still linger on increasing bad loans. Weaknesses in credit quality would still come from two main sectors, such as commodities which include mining companies, as well as MSME segments. MSME tends to be more vulnerable when the economy grew slower. Indonesia's banking sector has 18 percent exposure in MSME loans, which is not performing well and showing signs of stress in the micro-loans segment in general. The recent non-performing loans (NPL) of banks was 4.6 percent of total loans.</p> <p><i>(Source: Jakarta Post, 23 March 2016)</i></p>
<p>CAMBODIA</p> <p>Tourism a key revenue generator for SMEs</p>	<p>Cambodia's SMEs earned \$1.9 billion in revenue last year from the tourism sector and this amount could increase further by reducing imports. Promotional events such as the Agro-Tourism Exhibition and Sea and River Festival, where about a third of the featured products were domestically produced were big revenue generators for Cambodian SMEs.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Phnom Penh Post, 25 March 2016)</i></p>

“Glasshouse at Seputeh: A multi-purpose space with the most delightful desserts!”



The building raw brick walls and cement floors make it the perfect backdrop for any event. Even the roof structure is see-through, allowing natural sunlight to pour in or give you a peek of twinkling stars at night. The Glasshouse at Seputeh is ideal for parties or corporate events and the building is also home to Delectable by Su’s central kitchen and cafe.

The driver for this project was Huen Su Yin, the owner of Delectable by Su and she worked together with her father, Huen Peng Fatt and her sister, Su San to create this unique space. “It is not from one single person but a group of good friends who gave us ideas and we put it together,” said Peng Fatt who built the structure

In addition, they wanted the multi-storey building to have multiple uses. Once they put on their thinking caps, it was quickly decided that it would also be an event space, since they noticed there was a lack of interesting places in the city aside from hotels. So far, they have hosted birthday parties, the Most Glam awards, an international fashion label’s event, plus the launches of a whisky label and the latest BMW 3 Series.

At Glasshouse, the cafe fits well with the event space; complementing its offerings. “The cafe will work very well, as people who view the place and discuss their wedding plans will want a place to sit down and they can look down and plan, rather than go away and think about what the space was like. It is a necessity. The event planners can also come up here to rest, drink and eat”.

Source: www.themalaymailonline.com

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