

SME WEEKLY NEWS

(25 April 2016 – 29 April 2016)

Countries	Highlights
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>Schemes to benefit SMEs, including better access to financing</p>	<p>SMEs in Malaysia should take advantage of the guarantee schemes made available to them by the Government to gain better access to financing. According to Deputy Finance Minister YB Datuk Chua Tee Yong, there are numerous facilities that the Government has implemented in recent years to help SMEs grow. However, the response to certain programmes, such as the two ongoing schemes which are Services Sector Guarantee Scheme (SSGS) and the extension of the Working Capital Guarantee Scheme (WCGS) with worth a combined RM7 bil, had not been encouraging.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Star, 25 April 2016)</i></p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>Incubation centre to be established for SMEs</p>	<p>The Secretariat for the Advancement of Malaysian Entrepreneurs (SAME), a unit under the Prime Minister's Department (JPM), has received cooperation from TAR University College to set up an incubation centre, a module for SMEs in the country. The centre will be a model to guide SMEs to become successful in their businesses while offering a comprehensive approach and business solutions. The centre will feature not only former bankers but also the Special Task Force to Facilitate Business (PEMUDAH), Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) and the SME Association.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: New Straits Times, 25 April 2016)</i></p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>Ambank sees higher loan growth next year</p>	<p>AmBank Group expects its loan growth to be stronger in 2017 and potentially surpass the 6% to 7% estimated for this year, 2016. SME businesses were expected to grow further, while Bank Negara's stringent housing loan policy had benefited people looking to own a house. AmBank was also focusing on expanding its chip-card and merchants services for cashless transactions, as well as on wealth management space to enable customers to maximise yields, citing investment in bonds as an example.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Star, 26 April 2016)</i></p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>Bank Muamalat ventures into new IAP platform</p>	<p>Ipoh-based transportation provider, Perak Transit Bhd aims to raise RM10 mil in the form of RM10 mil term financing facility for three years via the investment account platform (IAP). Bank Muamalat is acting as the investment manager for the exercise, where the RM10 mil is expected to generate a return of 6.5% per annum to investors. The IAP is a centralised multi-bank platform that enables investors to directly finance ventures of their choice according to the risk-return preferences. The platform intends to enable businesses like SMEs, corporates, new growth industries and entrepreneurs to gain access to financing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Star, 26 April 2016)</i></p>

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<p>VIETNAM</p> <p>MPI launches SME dev fund</p>	<p>The Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) introduced SME development fund. With charter capital of VNĐ2 trillion, the establishment of the fund is to mobilise sources to boost the private sector, creating a driving force for national economic development. The fund will outline policies and implement international co-operation activities to support SME development. The purpose of the fund is to enhance the competitiveness of enterprises through supporting them in developing competitive and eco-friendly products, investing in technical equipment and advanced technology, and developing a support industry and improving corporate governance. SMEs, which are established and operating in line with the country's regulations nationwide, are eligible to receive support from the fund. The fund gives commercial banks a mandate to loan to SMEs at a preferential interest rate of 5% for short-term borrowing and 7% for medium and long-term credit.</p> <p><i>(Source: Vietnam News, 25 April 2016)</i></p>
<p>SINGAPORE</p> <p>Platform to help Singapore SMEs do business in Europe launched</p>	<p>Jointly launched by International Enterprise (IE) Singapore, Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) and Intellectual Property Intermediary (IPI), the centre will give Singapore companies access to technology know-how, intellectual property and exclusive access to 10,000 business and technology partnership opportunities. Trade agency IE Singapore said the EEN is the world's largest business and innovation support platform, which was set up under the European Commission's Agency for SMEs.</p> <p><i>(Source: Channel News Asia, 25 April 2016)</i></p>
<p>KOREA</p> <p>Help for South Korean SMEs should be refocused</p>	<p>The Korea Government unveiled a set of comprehensive measures to boost employment of young people and women, vowing to help about 40,000 jobseekers land jobs by matching them up with employers. The measures came after the unemployment rate for people under 30 reached an all-time high of 9.2% in 2015, with the overall jobless rate hitting a five-year high of 3.6%. The Ministry of Strategy and Finance said it will shift its policy priority onto encouraging young jobseekers to land jobs at SMEs, which have difficulty recruiting new employees due mostly to less competitive wage and welfare benefits, by helping them earn a certain amount of money after a certain period. The Government will pick some 10,000 people for the asset-boosting program for this year, starting from July. The finance ministry said the plan is designed to encourage young jobseekers to find a job in SMEs and help the companies fill their vacancies.</p> <p><i>(Source: Korea Herald, 27 April 2016)</i></p>

“From online to doorstep”



Startup logistics provider, Zyllem, is looking to establish a foothold in the Malaysian logistics market, offering on-demand same-day delivery services for regular customers as well as businesses, following its successful two-year run in Singapore.

Zyllem Malaysia country managing director Nabil Feisal Bamadhaj expects its business to grow strongly in Malaysia, thanks to the shift in the market toward e-commerce.

Zyllem hopes its entry into the Malaysian market would bridge the gap between convenience and cost by offering on-demand parcel delivery service that is not only fast, but also secure and reliable for prices as low as RM9.

This is done through its proprietary open logistics network that connects drivers with customers within the Klang Valley. This allows businesses and customers to seamlessly tap into a growing pool of delivery partners to offer a wide range of parcel delivery services with flexible delivery windows ranging from standard four-hour service to a premium one-hour express.

Accessible via mobile application or online, Zyllem's open network is designed to allow for greater transparency and security while remaining open to all delivery partners and customers to join in without any cost to create a vibrant ecosystem of supply and demand within the Klang Valley.

Source: www.thestar.com.my

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