

SME WEEKLY NEWS

(4 April 2016 – 8 April 2016)

Countries	Highlights
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>SME Corp. wants women to step forward in business landscape</p>	<p>SME Corp. Malaysia wants women entrepreneurs to come to the fore as it continues to bolster the Government's aspiration to elevate the development and growth of the country's SMEs. The Government agency hopes to see greater participation from women-owned SMEs at the annual Enterprise 50 (E50) award programme this year. Women entrepreneurs in this country have undeniably marked their strong presence in the Malaysian business landscape with their remarkable successes, locally and globally, and growing contribution to the economy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The New Straits Times, 4 April 2016)</i></p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>SME entrepreneurs expected to contribute more to GDP by 2020</p>	<p>SMEs are expected to contribute more than 41% to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2020, if their business capacities are expanded. Minister of Rural and Regional Development, YB Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said currently, the businesses of more than 650,000 SME entrepreneurs nationwide contribute about 30% to the GDP each year. The Government will continue to support and strengthen SMEs by introducing new measures and rationalising existing efforts to further develop the rural industry.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Star, 4 April 2016)</i></p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>SME Week 2016 in Terengganu set to attract 240 entrepreneurs</p>	<p>The SME Week 2016 in Terengganu, which will be held from 19 - 25 May 2016 will promote products from the SMEs and expected to attract 240 entrepreneurs from Terengganu and Thailand. The event is the State Government's initiative to increase trade among the entrepreneurs from the state and Thailand. Last year, cross-border trade rose by 8% to RM86 billion compared with the previous year. Cross-border trade made up about 60% Malaysia's trade with Thailand.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: Bernama, 8 April 2016)</i></p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>Seeking regional halal guidelines for ASEAN</p>	<p>The growing halal industry could provide an opportunity for ASEAN countries to strengthen regional trade. With growing demand for halal products, there was also a need for more halal-certified materials, which would encourage the growth of diverse suppliers in the region, boosting trade and job opportunities along the way. Having regional halal guidelines could help ASEAN SMEs be better prepared for export. Events such as MIHAS also make good platforms for SMEs to export their halal products and services. This year's event saw the participation of 531 companies from 29 countries including food producers and service providers. MIHAS 2016 raked in RM1.14 bil in total sales, 4% increase from last year's RM1.1 bil.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Star, 8 April 2016)</i></p>

Countries	Highlights
<p>THAILAND</p> <p>Thai firms to help SMEs trade overseas</p>	<p>Leading Thai companies will join hands with the Commerce Ministry in training and supporting local SMEs to expand their trade and investment overseas, under the government's policy to drive outward investment. The promotion of SMEs to do businesses overseas is part of the government's "Pracha Rath" (State of People) project, under which it wants to promote both inward and outward investment. Large enterprises will help train SMEs by providing information and contact persons or business-matching for SMEs, while helping them to penetrate each market.</p> <p><i>(Source: Bangkok The Nation, 4 April 2016)</i></p>
<p>SINGAPORE</p> <p>SMEs urged to partner Government to innovate and tap on technology</p>	<p>SMEs have been spending more on R&D, and the Government hopes more businesses can tap on innovation and technology for future growth. SMEs spent about S\$800 million on R&D in 2014, 38% more than in 2013. SMEs are encouraged to partner with Government agencies such as A*STAR and SPRING Singapore to leverage on innovation and technology to boost productivity and develop new capabilities. A*STAR has already rolled out a number of programmes to help SMEs, and the number of joint projects by A*STAR and SMEs has increased five-fold from about 600 between 2006 and 2010, to 3,000 between 2011 and 2015.</p> <p><i>(Source: Channel News Asia, 5 April 2016)</i></p>
<p>PHILIPPINES</p> <p>Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) targeting Japanese SMEs to migrate operations to PH</p>	<p>Several manufacturing companies based in Osaka, Japan have expressed interest in embarking on partnerships and investment projects in the Philippines. Philippines is well positioned to encourage companies to see the Philippines as a hub for their operations. The Japanese SMEs can export from the Philippines to other ASEAN-member countries, as well as to Europe and the United States using trade agreements that are now in place. With the advent of regional integration or the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), the region will see increased free flow of capital and goods among member countries. DTI has been encouraging Japanese SMEs to migrate operations to the Philippines in waste management projects and in promoting disaster and environment management technologies. They can also invest in setting up SME-centric industrial estates on remaining Government owned land</p> <p><i>(Source: Philippines Information Agency, 8 April 2016)</i></p>
<p>KOREA</p> <p>Government to strengthen punishment against SME technology theft</p>	<p>The Government said Wednesday that it will take tough action against the stealing of technology owned by SMEs, as related damage has continued to increase in recent years. Under a set of punitive measures, the Government will force people or companies that maliciously leak or steal technology and know-how from SMEs to give compensation of upwards to three times the size of the damages incurred. Also, the Government said it will increase fines slapped on people and firms that steal technology from SMEs. The max fine for international technology theft will be marked up from 100 mil won (\$87,000) to 1 bil won, while those slapped on domestic theft will be set at 500 mil won compared to 50 mil won in the past.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Korea Times, 6 April 2016)</i></p>

“Rise with the sun”



To keep growing, you must be able to spot “sunrise” businesses, say the founders of Dayatera Engineering, a manufacturer of construction materials. This could be a shift to new material, technology or way of doing things. This would describe the journey undertaken by James Lim Theam Aik and Gary Choong Lee Kwang, the founders of Dayatera Engineering, who have been evolving their business as they go along.

The two 55-year-olds took the plunge into the business world back in 1996 when they established the company to provide roof truss design and supply services. They had been in the roof truss industry for a number of years before that, but as employees. They started small, and kept operations lean and mean. There was just Lim, Choong and one employee to handle administration. Dayatera operated out of a 800 sq ft rented office in Bandar Baru Klang, with RM50,000 in capital.

In 2013, they invested RM15mil, mostly via bank loans, to set up a subsidiary, Ducero, and moved their Batang Berjuntai operations to a 120,000 sq ft factory in Telok Panglima Garang, Klang. There, they constructed a solar rooftop capable of generating 1.5MWp (Mega Watt peak, a solar power measurement in the PV industry). Lim says the company, which today employs 50 people, believes in continually investing in machinery and looking for new areas of growth. Their next growth chapter will be in the industrialised building systems (IBS) segment.

Source: www.thestar.com.my

Economics and Policy Planning Division
SME Corp. Malaysia
11 April 2016