

SME WEEKLY NEWS

(7 March 2016 – 11 March 2016)

Countries	Highlights
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>SME Bank expects to meet SME lending target RM200 mil via XCESS 2016</p>	<p>XCESS 2016 is one of SME Bank's outreach programmes for SME entrepreneurs throughout the country. In this programme, SME Bank will be able to service the entrepreneurs and the statistics will be captured in the Bank's SME database. There will be continuous engagements with the entrepreneurs in understanding their business needs and this will translate into financing opportunities for some of them.</p> <p><i>(Source: Bernama, 8 March 2016)</i></p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>Kojadi loans helped 200 SMEs nationwide</p>	<p>The low-interest Koperasi Jayadiri Malaysia (Kojadi) loans have benefited some 200 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) nationwide with loan amounting to RM40 million. Most of those taking the loans were companies in the manufacturing sector. The loan is for working capital, business expansion as well as the purchase of assets such as machines and equipment.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Star, 8 March 2016)</i></p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>CGC targets to approve RM4bil loans this year</p>	<p>Credit Guarantee Corporation (CGC) targets 8,650 loan approvals worth RM4 billion this year, mostly for SMEs. CGC will be leveraging on the nation's major infrastructure projects, assisting small contractors in projects, such as the Mass Rapid Transit Line 2, Pan Borneo Highway, Halal Hub initiative by Halal Development Corp and the Pengerang petroleum plant. CGC's new product recently introduced is RHB Financial Supply Chain Portfolio Guarantee (RHB FSCPG) which provides working capital financing, specifically for SMEs which lack collateral to support their funding needs.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Star, 9 March 2016)</i></p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>Maybank expects 27% rise in retail SME loan portfolio</p>	<p>Malayan Banking Bhd (Maybank) projects its retail small and medium enterprises (RSME) loan portfolio to grow 27% to RM28 billion this year, given the tremendous demand from regional markets. Last year, total RSME loans grew more than 35% to RM22.1 billion from RM16.31 billion recorded in 2014. Maybank has progressively introduced its RSME model in Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos and Brunei.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Star, 10 March 2016)</i></p>
<p>SINGAPORE</p> <p>UOB partners OurCrowd to provide equity crowdfunding in Asia for SMEs</p>	<p>United Overseas Bank (UOB), Singapore's largest SME bank, has announced a strategic collaboration with a global equity crowdfunding platform, OurCrowd that involves in having the bank investing US\$10 million in the platform. This collaboration is OurCrowd's first foray into Asia. The partnership pairs UOB's strengths and depth of experience in serving entrepreneurs as well as SMEs across the region with OurCrowd's expertise in investing in some of the world's most promising start-ups through equity crowdfunding. The partnership aims to address the US\$180 billion SME funding gap in Southeast Asia.</p> <p><i>(Source: Channel News Asia, 7 March 2016)</i></p>

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<p>THAILAND</p> <p>CIMB flags concerns over health of SME segment</p>	<p>CIMB THAI Bank might revise down the lending growth to SMEs amid concerns about the SME sector. Despite that, the bank still projects total loan growth of up 20 per cent this year after posting growth of only 4.3 per cent last year. The bank would mainly rely on the retail and wholesale banking sectors for loan growth this year since there would be more mergers and acquisitions (M&As). This would lead to high demand for loans, especially for bridging loans.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Nation, 7 March 2016)</i></p>
<p>THAILAND</p> <p>Google targets savvy SMEs</p>	<p>The new head of Google Thailand has outlined four strategic directions for its online advertising service in a market worth 10 billion baht last year, which will help to get more than one million SMEs online over the next two years. Ben King, who took up the new role in January, said that Thailand already has around 250,000-300,000 SMEs doing business online, which contribute to approximately 40 percent of Thailand's GDP. The four strategies are to enhance consumers' online experience, especially among new mobile users; cultivate local content; provide digital marketing courses for university students; and assist SMEs to capitalise on the digital economy.</p> <p><i>(Source: Bangkok Post, 8 March 2016)</i></p>
<p>UAE</p> <p>SME lending growth high on Emirates NBD's agenda</p>	<p>While many UAE banks are reducing their exposure to SME business debt, Emirates NBD Bank is looking to expand its lending to SMEs because the Bank felt that risks are worth than the return. Banks in general have been shying away, not only because of the high risk of lending to fledgling businesses but because of the dwindling amount of money circulating in the system. Gulf Finance, the Dubai specialty SME financier, shed a light on the increasing woes of small businesses in a report that showed that confidence among SMEs slipped to new lows in the fourth quarter of last year when the fall in the price of oil was most fierce. SMEs polled reported in the survey that they were finding it more difficult to secure financing and to get paid for their products and services</p> <p><i>(Source: The Nation, 7 March 2016)</i></p>

“DEWAMOR Perfume by Nizam”



Young entrepreneur who is also disabled, Mohd Khairul Nizam Wahiddin, 26, launched his own brand of perfume, Pink Floral By Dewamor. Nizam, the eldest of six siblings, wants to provide a comfortable life, especially to his mother, Norizan Ahmad Jaafar, 47, which is his only inspiration.

Dewamor perfume is produced by starch roses, essences of vanilla, musk and amber. The perfume scent is specially created for women with high flavor which has a sales target of 10 thousand bottles for the national market. Dewamor will also enter into 42 countries, including the Southeast Asian countries.

The perfume will be manufactured and released by Spirit Beauty Sdn Bhd and will be sold entirely through Dewamor website. The company offers the products under two categories, namely Fashion & Home and Beauty. The company's market segments are based on geographic operations that include Malaysia, Europe, Middle East & Africa, North America and Asia Pacific.

Source: www.sinarharian.com.my

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