



Press Release

For Immediate Publication

Fly High with eSCORE

Kuala Lumpur, 20 October, 2015 – A dedicated online assessment for SME Competitiveness Rating for Enhancement (SCORE), or eSCORE was launched today by the Minister of International Trade and Industry, Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, at MITI's Monthly Assembly held at SME Corp. Malaysia. Representatives from MITI agencies as well as strategic partners in the implementation of SCORE were also present at the ceremony.

SCORE is a quantitative assessment tool that enables SME Corp. Malaysia to **assess performance and categorise SMEs** based on specific criteria. SCORE was developed in 2007 and now was also utilised by other Ministries and Agencies to ensure assistance given is more **transparent, focused and holistic**. eSCORE enables SMEs to do **self-assessment** online in 3 easy steps and cut SCORE processing time by 7 days.

The online assessment can be accessed through **www.score.gov.my**. This tool make it easier for SMEs to participate in SCORE. The outreach will be greater and more SMEs will gain their tickets to fly high into the global market and compete with the global players. This **empowering** tool gives them the means to understand their current state and take necessary action to enhance their business performance. Having the best interest for the SMEs, SME Corp. Malaysia tirelessly find ways to educate SMEs on the importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) through this online assessment for them to be more competitive, innovative and resilient.

More than 20,000 SMEs assessed so far proves that SCORE has helped Malaysian SMEs to grow their business substantially. This is only made possible through the strong shared partnership that SME Corp. Malaysia has fostered with 15 strategic partners. The current partnership is further strengthened through the MoA exchange ceremony held concurrently which was witnessed by Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed.

The 15 strategic partners are Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional Berhad (PUNB), Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC), SME Bank, Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC), Halal Development Corporation (HDC), Technology Park Malaysia (TPM), TM Berhad, Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB), Northern Corridor Implementation Agency (NCIA), Ministry of Rural and Regional Development (KKLW), Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation (Kraftangan Malaysia), Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) and GIATMARA.

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About SME Corporation Malaysia (SME Corp. Malaysia)

SMIDEC was established under the Small and Medium Enterprises Corporation Malaysia Act 1995 (Act 539) and was later rebranded as SME Corporation Malaysia on 2 October 2009. SME Corp. Malaysia assumes the task as the central coordinating agency to formulate overall policies and strategies for SMEs, and to coordinate programmes across 15 Ministries and 65 Agencies. SME Corp. Malaysia is the central point of reference for research and data dissemination on SMEs in Malaysia and positions itself as the single point of contact for all information and advisory services through its One Referral Centre (ORC), located at its premises in Platinum Sentral.

An agency under the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MITI), SME Corp. Malaysia assumes the role of the Secretariat to the National SME Development Council (NSDC), which is chaired by the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia. SME Corp. Malaysia has also been tasked to implement and drive the SME Masterplan 2012-2020, in horizontal collaboration with other Ministries and agencies to ensure that our SMEs - the building blocks of our nation's economic growth, are transformed, to

better serve the nation.

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