



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Enterprise 50 Award 2016 Continues Celebrating Enterprising Stars

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 December 2016 – SME Corp. Malaysia unveiled the Top 10 winners of the Enterprise 50 (E50) Award at Sunway Putra Hotel today. The announcement was made by YBhg. Datuk (Dr) Hafsah Hashim, Chief Executive Officer of SME Corp. Malaysia, at a Press Conference held this morning. A total of 1,355 companies of 4-star and 5-star SCORE rating were invited to be nominated out of which only the top 50 companies will be awarded for their excellence. All these companies had to undergo a stringent evaluation process, based on various parameters including management processes, innovation, market strategy, technology use, export revenue, investment in capital, training and R&D just to name a few.

With the theme 'Celebrating Malaysia's Enterprising Spirit', the E50 Award is marking yet another milestone with its momentous 19th year since 1997. Through close collaboration between SME Corp. Malaysia, Deloitte Malaysia and strategic partners such as MIDF, TM, RHB, together with Media Prima and Malaysia SME as the Media Partners, this prestigious annual Award is back with greater vigour to bring together the crème de la crème within the Malaysian business fraternity of successful SMEs. The E50 Award has proven to be an invaluable public-private partnership initiative in showcasing Malaysian business success to promote the 'Malaysian brand' across the globe.

Despite the challenging economic environment faced by the industry players today, this year's winners portrays promising business opportunities and sustainability as 70% of the winners have already penetrated foreign markets and SME Corp. Malaysia believes the numbers will increase from time to time. This is in line with the

Government's agenda in promoting business internationalization for SMEs in Malaysia in order to achieve the desired 41% contribution to the GDP, 65% in employment share and 23% of exports as a high income nation in year 2020.

For the first time, a new category which is the "E50 Women Entrepreneur Award" was introduced this year, with the aim to promote women entrepreneurs as exemplary businesses, setting the standards of achievements for all other companies to emulate regardless of gender ownership. This is an encouraging development particularly a total of 14% of the winners are companies owned by women entrepreneurs.

This year's Top 10 winners were Exis Tech Sdn Bhd, Hexa Food Sdn Bhd, IX Telecom Sdn Bhd, Koyoko M P Sdn Bhd, MY CO2 Sdn Bhd, PRM Foods & Marketing Sdn Bhd, Sin Sing Coffee Sdn Bhd, Siti Khadijah Apparel Sdn Bhd, ST Tiew Dental Group Sdn Bhd and Top-Mech Provincial Sdn Bhd. Based on the analysis that was shared by Deloitte Malaysia during the Press Conference, to date, a total of 1,927 companies have participated in this award programme, in which 664 companies have been selected as winners. From this pool of champions, 60 have been listed on Malaysia Bourse with 46 on the Main Board and another 14 on the ACE Market.

These winners are going to be celebrated in an award dinner which will be graced by YAB Dato' Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, the Deputy Prime Minister, who will be presenting the Award to the winners. Apart from enjoying an array of benefits and rewards, each winner will be automatically nominated to the Industry Excellence Award (AKI) and subsequently will gain immensely from the recognition, endorsement and extensive network among the E50 alumni members.

Amongst various dignitaries present at the award dinner were YB Dato' Seri Ong Ka Chuan, Second Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI), YB Datuk Ahmad Maslan, Deputy Minister (Industry) International Trade and Industry (MITI), Tan Sri Ir. (Dr) Mohamed Al Amin Abdul Majid, Chairman of SME Corp. Malaysia, YBhg. Datu' Mohd Nizar Mohd Najib, Executive Director of Deloitte Malaysia and YBhg. Datuk (Dr) Hafsa Hashim, Chief Executive Officer of SME Corp. Malaysia.

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About SME Corp. Malaysia

SME Corp. Malaysia is a Central Coordinating Agency that formulates overall policies and strategies for SMEs and coordinates the implementation of SME Development Programmes across all related Ministries and Agencies. It acts as the central point of reference for research and data dissemination on SMEs, as well as, provides advisory services for SMEs in Malaysia.

SME Corp. Malaysia also assumes the role of the Secretariat to the National SME Development Council (NSDC) which is chaired by YAB Prime Minister of Malaysia.