



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RM528.8 Million Potential Sales Generated During SMIDEX 2016

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 May – The SME Annual Showcase 2016 has successfully generated sales negotiation worth RM528.8 million throughout the 3-day of action-pact business and trade proceedings, the highest ever recorded since its inception in 1997. A total of 113 SMEs and 40 anchor companies and MNCs had taken part in the business linkages. Renowned organisations such as BAE Systems, Rafale International, Pharmaniaga, Mydin, Aeon Big, Johor Corporation and many other MNCs also participated in the business matching sessions including foreign companies from Japan, United Kingdom, France and UAE. This event was organised by SME Corp. Malaysia, an agency under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) held from 17-19 May 2016 and supported by Telekom Malaysia Berhad and MIDF as the strategic partners as well as RHB Bank, UEM Khazanah Nasional, Credit Guarantee Corporation, ABX Express, Bank Rakyat, SME Bank, MRCB, Nova Spectre and Johor Corporation.

The SME Annual Showcase or better known as SMIDEX'16 was graced by YB Senator Dato' Sri Abdul Wahid Omar, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department today, in a ceremony themed "Celebrating 20 Years Journey..." at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. Marking its 18th year, the Showcase provided a platform for local SMEs to exhibit their products and services for the global market as well as serves as an avenue for SMEs to demonstrate their competitiveness and readiness to enter into strategic cooperation agreements and alliances for regional and global business growth.

Themed "SMEs Rising to the Challenge", it signifies the resilience and competitiveness of local SMEs in overcoming all kinds of challenges during the challenging economic condition; the rising commodity prices, exchange rates, slow

global trades and the increase of business cost. Despite the challenges, SMEs in the last few years continued to expand at an average annual growth rate of 8.6% in the period of 2012-2014 versus the overall economic growth of 5.4% per annum indicating that Malaysian SMEs have remained resilient.

With over 10,000 trade visitors and 339 exhibition booths, SMIDEX'16 provided a unique opportunity for SMEs to display their ability to match their products, services and technologies to the fast-changing demands of the evolving national, regional and global markets. Concurrently, new business opportunities and technologies were also made available for companies under one roof.

In conjunction with SMIDEX'16 in the month of May 2016, the event also commemorates SME Corp. Malaysia's 20th year of establishment, a colourful journey of transformation from SMIDEC to SME Corp. Malaysia in developing a competitive, innovative and resilient Malaysian SMEs. SME Corp. Malaysia is the central coordinating agency and one referral centre responsible of SME related information for the nation, towards driving the SME sector into a pillar of growth.

The event which was concluded today also witnessed the official announcement of Mr. Syed Salleh Syed Sulaiman, the winner of "The Entrepreneur", a reality concept TV programme competition that featured 10 contestants from Tunas Usahawan Belia Bumiputera (TUBE) 2.0, as well as presentation of 1-InnoCERT certificates to 14 companies and National Mark of Malaysian Brand certificates to 18 companies. Among the recipients of this certifications are Tanamera Tropical Spa, Taman Buaya Langkawi Sdn Bhd., Hyrax Oil Sdn Bhd and Datamicron Systems Sdn Bhd.

In addition, during the same ceremony, a new MoU was signed between SME Corp. Malaysia and the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), South Africa. There was also renewal of MoU between SME Corp. Malaysia and the Organisation for Small and Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation (SMRJ), Japan that was first signed in 2007. The objectives of the MoUs were to strengthen bilateral ties between Malaysia and the respective countries, establish linkages and network, as well as collaborate in matters of mutual interests in the area of SME development.

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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.