

# SME WEEKLY NEWS

(19 September 2016 – 23 September 2016)

Countries	Highlights
<p><b>MALAYSIA</b></p> <p><b>Standard Chartered, ADB inks RM80m SCF agreement</b></p>	<p>Standard Chartered Bank (M) Bhd and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have inked a RM80 million Supply Chain Finance (SCF). The ADB-Standard Chartered partnership will enable SMEs to gain better access to working capital through this programme. Supply chain financing provides SMEs with working capital at affordable rates. This helps them grow and facilitates the acquisition of raw materials for the production of goods that are sold to their corporate clients. SME bank loans make up an average of 11.6% of GDP and 18.7% of total bank lending in most of developing Asia and this indicates poor ongoing access to bank credit, which is a major barrier to the survival and growth of SMEs.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: Daily Express, 20 September 2016)</i></p>
<p><b>SINGAPORE</b></p> <p><b>SME survey shows Singapore firms having lowest profit expectations in 7 years</b></p>	<p>SMEs here are feeling downbeat about the next six months, especially their level of profitability, a survey found. The index measures the business outlook of SMEs for the next six months (Q4 of 2016 and Q1 of 2017) and is a joint initiative of the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) and DP Information Group (DP Info). In part, this reflects the constraints of operating in Singapore where costs are high. With excess capacity and sluggish demand, it has become tougher for our smaller businesses. Brexit in June, which jolted financial markets initially, may have contributed partly to businesses' weak sentiment for this round of the survey. More than 3,600 SMEs were surveyed between July and August. All six industries recorded a decline in their overall index score. Transport/Storage registered the largest decline at 4.2%, followed by Business Services at 4.0%. Three other sectors - Commerce/Trading (49.9), Manufacturing (49.2) and Transport/Storage (49.7) - had scores below 50 this quarter, indicating they expect worse trading conditions during the coming six months than they are experiencing now.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Straits Time, 22 September 2016)</i></p>
<p><b>SINGAPORE</b></p> <p><b>More SMEs join ranks of fastest-growing companies</b></p>	<p>Despite a weakening economy and challenging business conditions, the number of SMEs among Singapore's 50 fastest-growing companies has reached its highest number in the past five years. Going up from eight SMEs last year to 13 this year, they make up a quarter of the 2016 Fastest Growing 50 (FG50) Awards list. The FG50, compiled by DP Information Group, identifies companies that achieved a minimum of 10% turnover growth every year for the last three years while remaining profitable each year. The qualifying companies are then ranked by their three-year compounded annual growth rate (CAGR), with the top 50 receiving an FG50 Award. But while the SMEs are growing quickly, their profit margins are well behind the larger companies in the list. The average profit margin of the SME is 20%, while larger companies have an average profit margin of 52%.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: Business Time, 21 September 2016)</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THAILAND</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Korean platform launches '11street Campus' in Bangkok</b></p>	<p>South Korean e-commerce platform 11street, which was launched in Thailand help Thai businesses increase their online sales with the opening of the "11street Campus". The Campus is separated into various zones with a wide range of services for small and medium-sized enterprises. It is equipped with photo studios with state-of-the-art technology capable of 360-degree product shots with which businesses can showcase their products. The dedicated on-ground support for sellers at our 11street Campus will not only bring us closer to our local partners, but will also allow 11street to share and educate Thai SMEs on the latest resources we have from our global expertise in creating leading online e-commerce platforms around the world, and help Thai sellers profile their products better online. Right now they have more than 2,000 sellers registered to their platform, and they are anticipating increasing that to nearly 20,000 sellers by the end of 2017.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Nation, 21 September 2016)</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PHILIPINES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DTI sees brighter future of mat industry in Samar town</b></p>	<p>The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is optimistic of further promoting the mat industry in this town with the operation of Negosyo Center and Tindahan Pinoy. The Trade department is confident that mat weavers and traders will benefit from these two projects. The town, a neighboring area of Tacloban City, is currently the record holder in the Guinness Book of World Records for the world's longest mat, locally known as banig. Negosyo Centers will be responsible in promoting ease of doing business and facilitating access to services for SMEs (small and medium enterprises), especially those who are into mat weaving and trading. The center will not only ease the process for acquisition of government-issued permits and certificates, but will also serve as an advisory entity and provide access to financial institutions for loan applications. An SME Development Council, composed of public and private sector, will be formed to oversee the operations of the Negosyo Center and ensure that it fulfills its mandate to the people, according to Macabare. The DTI also opened One Town One Product (OTOP) Tindahan Pinoy, which aims to promote Philippine world-class products to tourists and also domestic buyers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Source: The Nation, 21 September 2016)</i></p>

