SME WEEKLY NEWS

(29 June 2020 –3 July2020)

Countries	Highlights
MALAYSIA **Celcom offers SMEs 50% subscription rate for Celcom Business Suite**	Celcom Axiata Bhd (Celcom) is offering SMEs a unique opportunity to transform their businesses digitally via its one-stop SME digital kit, Celcom Business Suite. The company's involvement as a technology solutions partner with MDEC enabled it to obtain a business digitalisation grant to finance 50% or RM5,000 of the subscription for the Celcom Business Suite that SMEs have to pay. Celcom Business Suite offers a variety of digital solutions for SME businesses such as cloud-based Electronic-Point of Sales (e-POS), electronic payment, digital marketing solutions and additional productivity tools such as tablet and Microsoft Office365. The SME digital kit also offers digital marketing with OMNI Communications, which is a one-stop web portal that allows broad access to customers through SMS, emails, Push notifications, and social applications as well as data connections and mobile device packages. Celcom Business Suite also offers business owners the flexibility to choose and customise additional services based on their business needs. For each Celcom Business Suite subscription, customers can choose Microsoft Office365 or market their business digitally with Location-Based Advertising (LBA) at an affordable price. *(Source: Malay Mail, 27 June 2020)*
SINGAPORE **Cisco launches 0% financing programme to support SMEs in Singapore**	Cisco launched a new financing programme to help SMEs purchase its products at 0% interest and with no upfront costs, at a fixed 3-year monthly payment term. SMEs will be able to purchase hardware, software solutions as well as services under the programme. The launch of the programme comes as the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns have disrupted supply chains and business activities. As the government starts to reopen the economy, SMEs are looking to adopt technology and digitize their business to resume operations safely, open new growth opportunities and contribute to the overall economic recovery post COVID-19. The new programme from Cisco is aimed at providing financial support to SMEs that seek to equip themselves with the necessary tools and solutions to accelerate their business in the new digital era. The 0% financing programme will provide SMEs access to necessary technological enablers from Cisco that include software, hardware and services without breaking their budget. SME's will enjoy a 3-year, full payout lease plan where they pay equal 36-month payments on their Cisco purchases that costs between USD20,000 to USD300,000 and will fully own the equipment at the end of contract period. *(Source: Asia One, 3 July 2020)*
INDONESIA **53% of Indonesians say obtaining SME permit is hard: SMRC survey**	Indonesians are finding it hard to secure business permits, especially for SMEs, with a recent survey showing that the country is lagging behind its regional peers in improving ease of doing business. According to survey by Saiful Mujani Research & Consulting (SMRC), 53% of respondents said it was "hard" or "very hard" to obtain a business permit for an SME. The figure is higher in rural areas (57%) than in urban centers (49%), with Kalimantan showed the largest share of respondents who faced difficulty securing a permit (92%). These findings confirm Indonesia's lack of competitiveness in terms of doing business compared to other countries, said a rep from SRMC. The survey came at a time when President Jokowi is pushing the omnibus bill on job creation to simplify the process of starting a business. Indonesia's position in the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking, which weighs in the ease of starting a business as one of seven indicators, has been stuck at 73rd position between 2018 and 2019. The omnibus bill, which will revise at least 79 existing laws, will allow one person to establish a limited liability company, among other things. The current law requires at least two persons to do so. *(Source: The Jakarta Post, 1 July 2020)*