

SME WEEKLY NEWS

(22 February 2021 - 26 February 2021)

Countries	Highlights
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p>MOF: RM1.26bil disbursed under Penjana SME scheme</p>	<p>Government approved 6,731 applications involving an allocation of RM1.259 bil under PENJANA SME financing scheme as at 12 February 2021. The scheme with an allocation of RM2 bil prioritises SMEs which have not received financing from banks previously. For PENJANA tourism sector financing, the government allocated RM1 bil for SMEs and micro SMEs which are still affected by Covid-19. There were 579 applications for this financing and out of this, some 282 applications have been approved with financing totalling RM57.1 mil. Meanwhile, for PENJANA micro credit financing under BSN, a total of RM363.4 mil had been disbursed, benefitting 10,774 micro SMEs including those in the retail and services sectors. For Bumiputera relief financing, which was introduced by PUNB with funding of RM200 million, some 572 SMEs had received funding of RM161.7 mil. On the objective of empowering the people, the first phase of the wage subsidy programme (PSU 1.0) is still ongoing and the government has channelled RM12.763 bil to 322,177 employers and 2.64 mil registered workers. For PSU 2.0, a total of RM770.31 mil has been channelled to 65,398 employers to enable them to continue operations and retain the employment for 534,183 workers.</p> <p><i>(Source: Free Malaysia Today, 24 February 2021)</i></p>
<p>PHILIPPINES</p> <p>Proxtera partners with Tazapay to boost cross-border trade for SMEs</p>	<p>Proxtera, a B2B marketplaces that facilitates cross-border trade for SME, and Tazapay, a digital escrow service for cross-border trade, have announced their partnership to launch Proxtera Protect, to provide international buyers and sellers with a secure and protected payment service to streamline global trade. In partnership with Proxtera, Tazapay will provide a digital escrow service for both buyers and sellers connected via participating platforms on the Proxtera network. Many businesses already use Proxtera to identify new trade partners and connect to discuss, negotiate and finalize trade terms. Through Proxtera Protect, Powered by Tazapay, SMEs will be able to complete transactions through the secure escrow payments service, providing both buyers and sellers with a critical layer of protection and confidence when doing business with a new partner. The global pandemic has exacerbated the challenge for SMEs with regard to cross-border payments. Proxtera has already helped to connect approximately 300,000 SMEs to new trading partners across Singapore, the Philippines, India, and Kenya; and offers a host of digital tools and services that help SMEs more quickly access, evaluate and act on business opportunities.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Fintech Times, 26 February 2021)</i></p>
<p>CAMBODIA</p> <p>NBC, IFC to boost SME financial access</p>	<p>National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) join forces on the “Cambodia Supply Chain Finance Market Development” project and expand financial access for the Kingdom’s SMEs. NBC signed a MoU to assist the government in its effort to improve the environment for private sector development. The result of this project will serve as a pathway for policy-setting and improving the SME finance ecosystem in Cambodia through strengthening regulatory support, enhancing market knowledge and practice, and developing favourable ecosystem. The government – through Small and Medium Enterprise Bank of Cambodia Plc (SME Bank) with a \$150 million capital investment – is making an effort to support the Kingdom’s SMEs and provide them with low-interest loans. In April, the Ministry of Economy and Finance rolled out its SMEs Co-Financing Scheme (SCFS): a joint venture between SME Bank and 23 commercial banks, two specialised banks and seven MFIs – five of which are microfinance deposit-taking institutions. SMEs can borrow \$200,000 for working capital and \$300,000 for investment capital, at a seven per cent annual interest rate and a four year period of payment.</p> <p><i>(Source: Phnom Penh Times, 25 February 2021)</i></p>