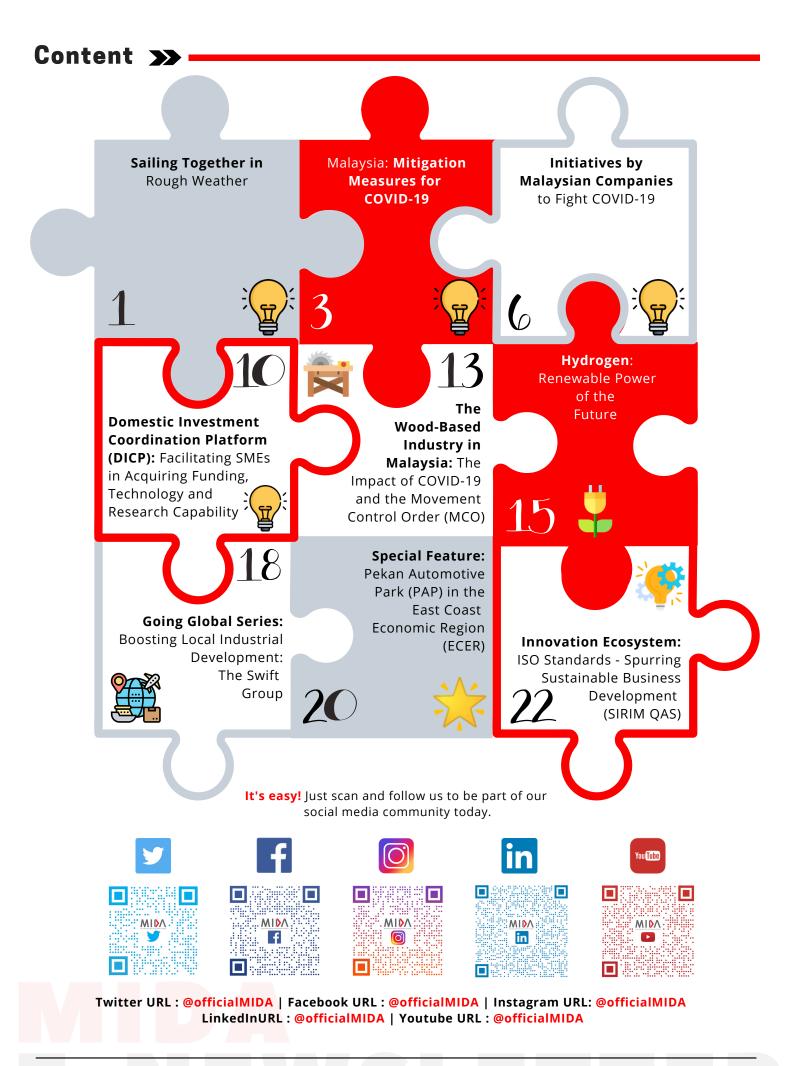


April 2020 Issue









Highlights ≫

Sailing Together in Rough Weather

A ccording to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), there will be a possible significant downward pressure on global FDI flows by -30 per cent to -40 per cent due to COVID-19. This is a potential outcome given the close, intricate inter-dependence of global value chains, directly affecting earnings of large multinational corporations (MNCs).

The Impact of COVID-19 on the Malaysian Economy

In 2019, Malaysia's GDP grew by 4.3 per cent. Due to COVID-19, the volatility of global crude oil prices as well as the supply in the commodities sector has continued to be disrupted. Malaysia's Central Bank (Bank Negara Malaysia) has now projected the country's economic growth to be between -2 per cent to 0.5 per cent in 2020.

Based on MIER analysis, industrial output is estimated to reduce between 40 per cent and 70 per cent during MCO and projected negative growth of -8.6 per cent of the manufacturing sector. The industries affected by these include tourism, aerospace, automotive, chemical, medical devices, electrical and electronics (E&E) as well as metal, machinery and parts.



Malaysia's Approach to Combat the Effects of the Pandemic

"The pandemic has indeed created a lot of uncertainties. Malaysia has joint numerous countries around the world in implementing measures to managing the outbreaks and keeping the people safe. The Malaysian Government announced the Movement Control Order (MCO) beginning 18 March 2020 to prevent further spreading of the virus and flatten the outbreak curve. This measure is proving to be effective. With recovery numbers of more than 50 per cent and the number of cases lower than the initial projected, Malaysia is handling the situation relatively well," said Dato' Azman Mahmud during the "Dialogue with CEO of MIDA: Sailing Together in Rough Weather" live webinar session, organised by CCI France Malaysia (CCIFM) and MIDA on 21 April 2020.

Several economic sectors have been allowed to operate subject to strict adherence to health and safety guidelines to ensure the balancing of public health, economic sustainability and the livelihood of the people. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has provided the necessary approval for companies producing essential products and services to stay in operation during the first two phases of the MCO. MIDA has been actively involved in the approval process by providing pertinent inputs to MITI for the final approvals to companies.

Under the third phase of the MCO, the Government further expanded the scope of the industries, allowing several additional economic sectors to operate namely, automotive industry, machinery and equipment industry, aerospace industry, construction projects, science, professional and technical services, including R&D, social health services including registered traditional and complementary medicine (TCM) practitioners.

Simultaneously, to bolster the national economy and assist the businesses during this challenging time, the Government announced a Stimulus Package valued at USD58 billion (RM260 billion) including allocation of RM100 billion to support business and small and medium

Highlights ≫

enterprises in Malaysia. According to AFP (Agence France-Presse), Reuters, Bloomberg, Nikkei, BBC and the Guardians, Malaysia's comprehensive stimulus package is estimated to be 18 per cent of our national GDP. It is considered to be the third-largest stimulus package after Germany (32% of GDP) and Britain (19%).

Looking Beyond the Current Uncertainties: Malaysia to Grow in 2021

"While COVID-19 is disrupting all manner of business throughout the world, MIDA would like to assure French investors that Malaysia remains an investorfriendly and strategic location for long term growth. France is a significant investor in Malaysia and the 5th largest investor from EU countries and proud that 30 out of the 40 top French companies listed on the main French index of NYSE Euronext have established their operations in Malaysia," said Dato' Azman.

"Malaysia is indeed at a difficult time. However, history has proven that Malaysia is a resilient nation despite multiple challenges faced by the global economy. We are confident that once we overcome this challenging chapter, Malaysia will be stronger in rebuilding Malaysia's competitiveness," Dato' Azman added.

Malaysia's status as a resilient nation is well supported by the World Bank in its recent statement. According to the World Bank's lead economist, Mr. Richard Record, Malaysia is more resilient than many other countries. It has, among others, a diversified economic structure and a sound track record of macroeconomic management. While the challenges ahead are unprecedented, Malaysia is well placed to weather the storm.

This is further attested to by the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) projections of Malaysia's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at a rate of 9 per cent next year, a sharp increase from the expected 1.7 per cent contraction in 2020. This positions Malaysia as the fastest growing economy among the ASEAN-5, which, according to the IMF, is likely to expand at an average of 7.8 per cent next year. The ASEAN-5 comprises Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam and Singapore.

In closing, Dato' Azman emphasised that MIDA will continue working closely with investors to support the growth of business in Malaysia. The CEO of MIDA said, "Companies are advised to reach out to MIDA officials for any business assistance that required although we are working from home. The war has still not vet ended, and therefore, cooperation for companies to comply with the standard of procedures during COVID-19 is highly important to win this war."

The Ambassador of France, H.E Frederic Laplanche also joined the live webinar session and delivered his remarks. The session was moderated by Dato' Zainal Amanshah, Chairman of CCIFM and Mr. Gilles Waeldin, President of CCIFM. Approximately 100 participants, of whom were mostly representatives from French companies operating in Malaysia participated in the webinar.

For more information on MIDA's facilitation and services, please visit MIDA website at <u>www.mida.gov.my</u> or email to investmalaysia@mida.gov.my.





Highlights **>>**

Malaysia: Mitigation Measures for COVID-19

Top 5 Stimulus Packages Rolled Out by Governments in the Asia Pacific

Top 5 Stimulus Packages Rolled Out by Governments in ASEAN



measuresSource: Official government sources

USD64.6 bil USD40.4 bil USD33.0 bil USD16.3 bil USD10.3 bil

3.1%

Malaysia Singapore Indonesia Thailand Philippines

Notes: • As • Inc • Inc • Inc

12.4%

18.1%

As of 8 April 2020



3.0%

Source: Official government sources

Malaysia's Economic Stimulus Package (RM260 billion/USD64.6 billion)

1. Economic Stimulus Package (27 FEBRUARY 2020)

• The Malaysian Government announced a RM20 billion Economic Stimulus Package to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 outbreak and reinvigorate the growth of the Malaysian economy.

2. PRIHATIN Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) (27 MARCH 2020) The Government announced the PRIHATIN Economic Stimulus Package, injecting an additional RM230 billion into the economy. 3.PRIHATIN SME Economic Stimulus Package (PRIHATIN SME+) (6 APRIL 2020) The Government announced an additional allocation of RM10 billion to further support

 The Government announced an additional allocation of RM10 billion to further support businesses, particularly the SMEs.

Source: MOF

Selected measures of the Economic Stimulus Package (RM20 billion)

Strategy 1: Mitigating the impact of COVID-19

- Ease cashflow of businesses
- Assist affected individuals
- Stimulate demand for the domestic "travel and tourism" sector

1. Financing Facilities

Strategy 2: Catalysing *rakyat*-centric economic growth

- Boost household spending
- Implementation of peoplecentric projects

Strategy 3: Promoting quality investment

- Leverage public investments
 Provide incentives to
- encourage private investments

RM2 billion allocated to establish a Special Relief Facility ("SRF") to assist with the cashflows of affected SMEs.

Financial institutions to facilitate the restructuring and rescheduling of loans. SME

Bank Simpanan Nasional to offer **RM200 million in microcredit facilities** to the tourism and other affected sectors.

> RM500 million to be invested by the Securities Commission Co-Investment Fund in early-stage and growth-stage Malaysian companies.

2. Industry Boosters

• **Deferment** of monthly tax instalments for six months for the tourism sector.





- **Exemption** of service tax on taxable services for six months for the hospitality industry.
- All affected sectors **exempted** from the Human Resources Development Fund levy.





 15% discount on electricity bills for all affected sectors.

• **RM500 million** allocated to stimulate demand for the tourism sector.





Up to **RM5 million** per affected SME for guarantees to finance working capital.

3. Socio-economic drivers

- Fund amounting to RM1.1 billion to assist retrenched workers under the Employment Insurance System ("EIS").
- Minimum employee contribution to the Employees Provident Fund ("EPF") reduced from 11% to 7%, to potentially increase disposable income by approximately RM10 billion.
- RM300 million for all SMEs to upgrade, modernise and rejuvenate productive assets under the SME Automation and Digitalisation Facility ("ADF").
- Up to RM2 billion worth of small-scale projects to be carried out.



Selected measures of the PRIHATIN ESP (RM230 billion) and PRIHATIN SME+ (RM10 billion)

1. Rakyat-centric: RM128 billion to preserve rakyat's welfare

- Allocation of RM1.5 billion to support the Ministry of Health to purchase equipment and services to contain COVID-19.
- Insurance and takaful industry to create a special fund of RM8 million to cover costs, and suspension of premiums by affected contributors for three months.
- Allocation of RM10 billion for one-off cash assistance to all B40 households and eligible M40 households under the Bantuan Prihatin Nasional.
- Allocation of RM270 million for one-off cash assistance to students at various levels of tertiary education.
- Allocation of RM1 billion to the Food Security Fund.
- Loan moratorium for all borrowers for six (6) months.
- Free Internet services; allocation of RM400 million investments to widen network coverage and capacity.

2. Business support: RM110 billion to support all businesses, including SMEs

- Loan/financing moratorium for all affected businesses for six months.
- Allocation of RM500 million to provide discounts on electricity bills for the tourism, commercial, industrial, agricultural and household sectors.
- Allocation of RM13.8 billion to assist up to 4.8 million workers under the Enhanced Wage Subsidy Programme.
- Various forms of assistance to farmers and fishermen, including allocation of RM100 million for the development of infrastructure for food storage and distribution and crop integration programme and allocation of RM64.4 million to develop short-term agrofood projects.
- Allocation of RM60 million for one-off cash assistance to full-time e-hailing drivers.
- Exempt payment for Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) levy for 6 months.
- Postponement of income tax instalments for all SMEs.
- Allocation of **RM4.5 million** as additional funds through various financing programmes/facilities to assist SMEs including micro-entrepreneurs.
- Optional deferral of payments, restructuring and rescheduling of employer contribution.

3. Economic strengtheners: RM2 billion to ensure the sustainability of economic growth

- Allocation of RM2 billion for the implementation of small projects to benefit G1 to G4 contractors.
- To ensure the implementation of the RM2 billion worth of projects previously announced, including infrastructure projects in FELDA and other areas (RM600 million), upgrading dilapidated schools in Sabah and Sarawak (RM350 million) and upgrading the Perumahan Rakyat Termiskin (RM150 million).
- To continue and bring forward the implementation of all projects allocated under Budget 2020 such as the East Coast Rail Line project, the Mass Rapid Transit 2 project, and the National Fiberisation and Connectivity Plan.

Source: MOF





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Highlights 🍞

Initiatives by Malaysian Companies to Fight COVID-19

N umerous countries around the world are implementing measures to manage COVID-19 to keep their population safe. In Malaysia, the first COVID-19 case was reported on 25 January 2020. The Government took proactive actions to curb the diseases and announced the Movement Control Order (MCO) beginning 18 March 2020. The MCO, initially scheduled for two weeks, is currently in its 4th phase until 12 May 2020.

The Malaysian Government and Health Ministry is working hard to protect the rakyat of this country. The contribution and resources from various parties will help to reduce the burden on the Malaysian healthcare system, enabling healthcare professionals to concentrate on looking after the people.

In facing this unprecedented situation, many stakeholders, particularly companies, have voluntarily stepped in to assist in the fight against the COVID-19 outbreak.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and Artificial Intelligence

AERODYNE GROUP



Aerodyne is a global leader in Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven drone solutions.

As part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, Aerodyne is helping the Government, particularly the Drone Unit of the Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) to patrol neighbourhoods in the Klang Valley daily since 27 March 2020. The undertaking has expanded further since early April 2020 with Aerodyne deploying more personnel to support the "Ops Penawar" initiative by patrolling the greater Kuala Lumpur and nationwide.

This operation has a special approval from the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia with the support from the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, and Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and Big Data

GEO SENSE SDN. BHD.



Geo Sense Sdn. Bhd. provides a premium service in delivering high-resolution aerial images on demand by utilising a glider based mini Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).

To combat COVID-19 in public places, Geo-Sense has developed spray disinfection chambers which include sensors for temperature monitoring. The disinfection spray chamber was designed and tested at the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) School of Mechanical Engineering. Currently, the chamber is installed at the Majlis Bandaraya Johor Bahru.

Medical Technology – Rapid Test Kit for COVID-19

<u>MEDICAL INNOVATION VENTURES SDN. BHD.</u> (<u>MEDIVEN)</u>



Medical Innovation Ventures (Mediven®) is a fastgrowing diagnostics company based in Malaysia that develops GenoAmp® and ProDetect® series of products.

This Malaysian company has recently developed two new laboratory test kits, namely GenoAmp® Real-Time RT-PCR SARS-CoV-2 and GenoAmp® Real-Time RT-PCR Flu A/ Flu B/ SARS-CoV-2/MERS-CoV. These single-tube assays are used in testing patient specimens for COVID-19, including influenza and influenza-like illnesses, and for confirming COVID-19 infection, respectively.

Mediven®'s GenoAmp® Real-Time RT-PCR SARS-CoV-2 test kit has been listed by FIND Dx (under the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) and obtained the "Certificate of EU product notification".

Autonomous Mobile Robot (AMR)

DF AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS SDN BHD



DF Automation & Robotics is a Malaysian techbased company that produces automation and robotics.

The company collaborated with the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and Hospital Canselor Tuanku Muhriz UKM (HCTM) to develop a Hospital Delivery Robot System. The robot, named MCK19 or Makcik Kiah 19, is the first Malaysian-made Delivery Robot for hospitals to support healthcare front liners in assisting the delivery of healthcare to patients with COVID-19. MCK19 uses Zalpha, a DF's commercial robot that can accommodate weight up to 300kg in its shelves and can navigate autonomously to assist doctors or nurses in delivering food or medicine to a patient's room.

The usage of these robots such as MCK19 will reduce the exposure of healthcare professionals and front liners to patients under investigations (PUI) that may be highly contagious.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

IME GROUP OF COMPANIES

IME GROUP OF COMPANIES

IME is a leading product design and manufacturing solution provider in Malaysia since the 1980s. The company has been exploring ways for the engineering community to contribute to the front liners. They created group chats, which were later combined mainly on the following four areas:

- Protective Face Shields
- Automated Ambu bag
- Face Mask improvised from Scuba Mask
- Protective gowns, isolation gowns, caps

The above discussion is driven by the Collaborative Research in Engineering, Science and Technology Centre (CREST).

Currently, IME works with CREST and other volunteers to produce PPE for front-liners in need through a community-based initiative called PPE Re-Imagineering Group Fight Against COVID-19. The group has been working to produce 4000 DIY face shields and 200 3D (re-usable after washing and disinfecting) face shields per day from their respective homes; and looks to ramp up their 'production' of PPE further, to overcome the decreasing inventory in coming weeks.

The group welcomes active participation from other members of industries that have obtained approvals from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to contribute collectively through a platform, created in Facebook : <u>PPE Re-Imagineering</u> <u>Group Against COVID-19</u>

Medical Device - Ventilator

PENTAMASTER



PENTAMASTER manufactures automated and semi-automated machines and equipment, designs and manufactures precision machinery components, as well as assembles and installs computerised automation systems and equipment.

Pentamaster is working on producing Low-Cost Ventilator to support local hospitals. The product is still in the prototyping stage and will be completed within four (4) weeks. The ventilator will be sent to local authorities for fast track certification. By building these low-cost ventilators, it will benefit Malaysia and other less developed countries that cannot afford expensive ventilators. The company anticipates of producing approximately 40 to 50 ventilators per month.

Internet of Things (IoT)

FAVORIOT SDN. BHD.

favoriot

FAVORIOT is a middleware platform specifically designed for Internet of Things (IoT) and Machine to Machine (M2M) projects to support the integration of data from several sensors and actuators into the internet.

Three solutions used by Favoriot to combat COVID-19 are as follows:

1) Favorsense

Favorsense is a crowdsourcing solution using a mobile application that collects information on city's issues and provides back-end solutions to manage all the problems.

The company's initiative enables the public to report MCO violators systematically to PDRM in real-time by using Favorsense. Favorsense Insights also gives PDRM's higher authority, real-time statistics on areas with most reported cases, consequently enabling quick decision making and effective planning for the next course of action.

2) D'scover

D'scover is a permission-based mobile application that is able to track location and report the whereabouts of an individual.

This initiative benefits group of people to know their members' whereabouts, update their conditions remotely and get support by broadcasting to their members. In the current scenario, health authorities will be able to monitor quarantined persons and carry out contact tracing with new confirmed COVID-19 cases. This will greatly reduce the time of manual monitoring.

3) Raqib

Raqib is a service that remotely monitors and tracks the home quarantined person under investigation (PUI) using a smart wearable device. It will save the time of health officials in monitoring daily health conditions and notify of any violation of home quarantine directives.

Internet of Things (IoT)

B'SMART

b′smart

B'SMART System Solutions Sdn. Bhd. is a 100% Bumiputera-owned company, incorporated since 2013. It is a solution provider for Internet of Things (IoT) telematics services and heavily involved in the local R&D with other homegrown technology partners.

B'SMART System Solutions has collaborated with the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) in providing the solution for Electronics Cargo Tracking System (ECTS). The ECTS system enables related personnel of a company to use ESEAL to seal their goods and auto-notify JKDM via an application. This helps to reduce the potential contact of the infectious virus.

Companies with high compliance level and high security management are encouraged to apply for the Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) scheme from RMCD.

TELEKOM MALAYSIA BERHAD (TM)



TM R&D is the centre of innovation for Telekom Malaysia Berhad (TM).

Early Warning, Alert and Response (EWAR) is TM R&D's latest state-of-the-art solution to measure and detect individuals with abnormal body temperature in crowded areas. It can easily be deployed in offices, shopping complexes, transportation hubs, universities, schools, tourist attractions, airports, immigration centres, hospital or any location with foot traffic.

With IoT capabilities, contact tracing can also be efficiently achieved as data and information captured on individuals with high fever can be dispersed in real-time to relevant authorities for planning and emergency response purposes. The EWAR dashboard provides live and historical data analysis as well as geolocation alerts for monitoring purposes.

Covid-19 Mobile Test Unit for Mass Screening

VOLUNTARY INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION EXECUTION BY COMBAT C19MY



Doctors and Design Engineers Against COVID-19 (COMBAT C19MY, previously known as DDEC19MY) have developed a mobile testing unit, utilising local ideas and expertise.

Together with UiTM Sungai Buloh Hospital, the COMBAT C19MY team has successfully built one COMBAT unit, which is ready to be transported to a red zone.

The Coronavirus Mobile Test unit is a cabin structure, which uses a standard 20ft ISO Cargo Container. It enables contactless testing, with positive and negative pressure rooms. The unit comes with an intercom system that allows communication between health care workers and patients.

It is expected that with the COMBAT unit, health care workers can conduct from up to 30-50 tests in an hour, and a maximum of up to 1,200 tests a day.

April 2020 | 9

Highlights **>>**

Domestic Investment Coordination Platform (DICP): Facilitating SMEs in Acquiring Funding, Technology and Research Capability

Introduction

Globally, SMEs play a significant role in contributing to national GDP growth, employment and innovation. In Malaysia's context, SMEs represent 90 per cent of business establishments. They also account for 65 per cent of the country's employment and contribute approximately 40 per cent to the country's GDP.

MIDA acknowledges that SMEs are the foundation of Malaysia's future development. They are the most vigorous and fastgrowing segment of the Malaysian economy. On this premise, MIDA continuously seeks new approaches and strategies to facilitate their growth and competitiveness in the domestic arena and global markets. This is in addition to MIDA's assistance in improving the overall business environment for local companies and SMEs.

The presence of new and disruptive technologies has transformed the overall landscape of industries globally, posing greater challenges to SMEs. MIDA consistently highlights the need for domestic industry players, particularly SMEs, to embrace innovations and harness new sources of growth to deliver the next age of economic prosperity in Malaysia. However, access to financial resources is an obstacle to the growth and sustainability of local companies and SMEs in Malaysia.

In addressing this, MIDA through the Domestic Investment Coordination Platform (DICP) team provides the missing link between businesses, funding, technology and research capability. The DICP team works closely with local regulators, technology providers, financial institutions as well as equity and corporate advisory firms to facilitate SMEs to grow their businesses; subsequently, driving more domestic direct investments (DDI) in the country. The team also engages with R&D institutions for the commercialisation of various projects.

DICP's Scope of Facilitation

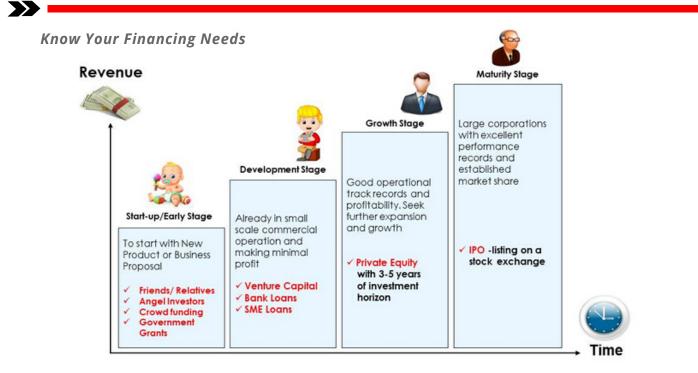
The DICP team actively and directly engage with SMEs to identify their requirements and business needs before initiating a business matching session with relevant financial institutions, potential business partners, and/or technology providers.

The DICP team also assist local companies and SMEs in identifying their potential sources of financing based on the current stage of their business. Companies at different stages of business, i.e. start-ups or mature corporations, will have different accessibility to funding facilities. As such, it is vital for companies to thoroughly understand their position to fully leverage the resource available to them.

How Does DICP Work?



April 2020 | **10**



Prior to the implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO) to curb the spread of COVID-19, the DICP team conducted meetings and engagement sessions with an average of three companies per day from various industry sectors, with different needs and requirements. Some companies require capital injection for business expansion plans, structured financing for new projects as well as those seeking joint venture partners or merger and acquisition opportunities.

DICP's Success Stories

As to date, the DICP team has successfully assisted many local companies and SMEs in pursuing their business plans. Among the achievements include:

- Development of solar project by a local engineering procurement construction (EPC) company through a joint venture with a foreign company;
- Commercialisation of biobased products through the collaboration between a local SME and a research institution;
- Application of Internet of Thing (IoT) and big data analytics by a local farming company through the collaboration with a local R&D company;
- Investment by equity firm in a local food processing and exporting company; and
- Adoption of digital technology and e-commerce platform by a local SME through the collaboration with a local fintech/digital technology provider.











In addition to business-tobusiness facilitation, the team also organises and promotes seminars and forum on alternative financing, in collaboration with financial institutions, equity and venture capital firms.

The DICP team is looking forward to organising a series of forums on the topic of 'Suppliers' Financing' for SMEs to assist them in integrating into the domestic supply chain for large corporations. The team is also exploring the theme of 'Introduction to Sukuk and Bonds' for local companies to increase their knowledge of available financing alternative for their projects.

Way Forward - Post COVID-19 Pandemic

As COVID-19 has shifted from a sole health crisis to a multifaceted challenge, particularly on the economic front, MIDA is continually assessing how local businesses and SMEs in Malaysia will weather this storm. MIDA is also strategising on the types of assistance that would ensure the survival and sustainability of SMEs during these challenging times.

During this time, local businesses and SMEs must embrace the new normal in doing business. There is an urgent need for companies to transition and optimise the usage of modern technology, business digitalisation, and e-commerce platform to remain relevant. This includes simple tasks such as the increased usage of email communication and video conferencing to replace face to face communication, as well as webinars to replace group seminars and forum.

The DICP team will also provide the necessary assistance to businesses to embark on digitalisation and adoption of new technology. Local companies and SMEs are urged to leverage on DICP's facilitation in their venture to realign and restructure their businesses. More information can also be obtained on the MIDA website at <u>ww.mida.gov.my</u> or email to investmalaysia@mida.gov.my.



Industry ъ

The Wood-Based Industry in Malaysia: The Impact of COVID-19 and the Movement Control Order (MCO)

he world has been astounded by the spread of the COVID-19 virus at the start of the year 2020. The Malaysian economy was also affected, notably smaller businesses and vulnerable groups such as lowerincome individuals, daily wage earners and workers. Proactively, Malaysia implemented the Movement Control Order (MCO) since 18 March 2020 to battle the pandemic. Selected economic sectors were, however allowed to operate subject to strict adherence to the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the respective sector.

Speaking on the COVID-19 pandemic and MCO, the President of the Muar Furniture Association (MFA) shared that the furniture business and associated players have been affected in the first quarter of 2020. MFA also added that by not being in operation for 28 days, the furniture factories in Muar are expecting losses amounting to RM500 million, in addition to fines due to potential violation of agreements of approximately RM10 million.

Categorised as non-essential, the wood-based industry is among the sectors affected by the MCO. For the past 20 years, Malaysia's wood-based industry has become one of the major revenue contributors to the country's economic growth. Employing approximately 240,000 workers, the industry encompasses the production of sawn timber, veneer, panel products (plywood, particleboard, chipboard, and fibreboard), mouldings, and builder joinery and carpentry (BJC), as well as furniture and furniture components.

In 2019, Malaysia's exported wood and wood products valued at RM22.5 billion. Of this, 40.6 per cent was from wooden furniture and 15.1 per cent, from plywood. Notably, furniture companies in Muar, Johor play a critical role in contributing to Malaysia's exports of wood and wood products, accounting for 60 per cent of the export value. Muar is the furniture hub of Malaysia, housing 700 factories that represent approximately 45 to 50 per cent of the country's furniture export.

The rapidly growing furniture industry in Muar saw many small scale businesses shifting their operations to industrial estates in Pagoh, Bukit Pasir, Bukit Bakri, Parit Jamil, Tanjong Agas and Gresik, to establish furniture manufacturing clusters with essential supporting industries. In addition to the small and medium-sized factories, many companies have expanded into larger entities. Currently, there are eight furniture companies listed on Bursa Malaysia.





The abundance of subcontractors ensured Muar's global competitiveness in price and quantity. Muar has also become an internationally renowned Malaysian Furniture City. Since 1982, MFA, which represents all furniture and furniture parts manufacturers in Muar, has been the main driving force to make Malaysia one of the most outstanding furniture manufacturing nations in the world.

Hence, as the wood-based industry is export-oriented, the Government has taken several measures and consideration to assist wood-based industry players during this challenging time. The Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) mandated the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) to evaluate and approve companies in the wood-based industry to operate during the MCO, particularly to fulfil agreed-upon contracts. This is in line with the stipulated conditions by the Malaysian National Security Council (MKN) and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

The submission of applications to MTIB began on 21 March 2020. The main criterion evaluated by MTIB is the penalty for breaching the export agreement/contract, and for preventing huge losses for exporters. Nevertheless, companies have also been approved on a case by case basis, especially for manufacturers that are suppliers to essential products.

As to date, a total of 421 companies have been approved to operate during the MCO.



MKN, The Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM), local authorities (PBT) and State Forestry Department closely monitor these approved companies to ensure their compliance in adhering to all imposed conditions particularly in ascertaining the safety and health of employees. This includes physical distancing, temperature checking, as well as health and hygiene protocols.

At this challenging time, SMEs, including those within the woodbased industry, are strongly encouraged to use technology to create new value in business models, customer experiences and the internal capabilities that support their core operations. This will accelerate the recovery phase and enable the companies to become highly adaptable towards the post-MCO era.

The COVID-19 pandemic is taking a toll on the country's economy. According to the Prime Minister, YAB Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin during the special interview with RTM and Astro Awani on 25 April 2020, Malaysia's economy is losing RM2.4 billion every day as most businesses are suspended during the MCO. Nonetheless, the MCO is necessary to curb the spread of Covid-19 and save lives.

To stimulate Malaysia's economy and mitigate any adverse repercussions from the coronavirus outbreak and other external uncertainties, the Government launched the **RM260 billion PRIHATIN Economic** Stimulus Package 2020 (PRIHATIN). The focus is on preventing job losses and ensuring small companies to continue to be viable. "We need to ensure that our economy continues to thrive. The Government is already taking steps to reopen the economy gradually and is ready to ensure that it recovers to become just as strong or stronger than it was before," YAB Prime Minister added.

Services 🍑

Hydrogen: Renewable Power of the Future

The escalating growth of the human population and the rapid evolution of heavy industrial sectors are significant contributors to energy demands. To fulfil this ever-increasing demand, current and future energy systems need to be costeffective, practical, reliable and sustainable, with low impact on the environment. For these reasons, there is a growing interest in hydrogen-based fuel technologies in recent years.

As a promising energy carrier which can be transformed into a renewable, non-polluting and zero-emissions energy resource, hydrogen can help to tackle various critical energy challenges. Predominantly, it can help in storing the variable outputs from other renewable energy sources like solar and wind to better match demand patterns. Hydrogen also offers ways to decarbonise a range of sectors such as iron and steel, long-haul transport and chemicals; as well as improves air quality and strengthen energy security.



Currently, non-energy uses of hydrogen dominate consumption, with the production of ammonia accounting for approximately half of hydrogen demand. The use of hydrogen for energy purposes is estimated to be between one and two per cent of total consumption. By 2030, hydrogen energy use is expected to be deployed in many developed nations, whereby Japan is already currently leading the use of hydrogen energy.

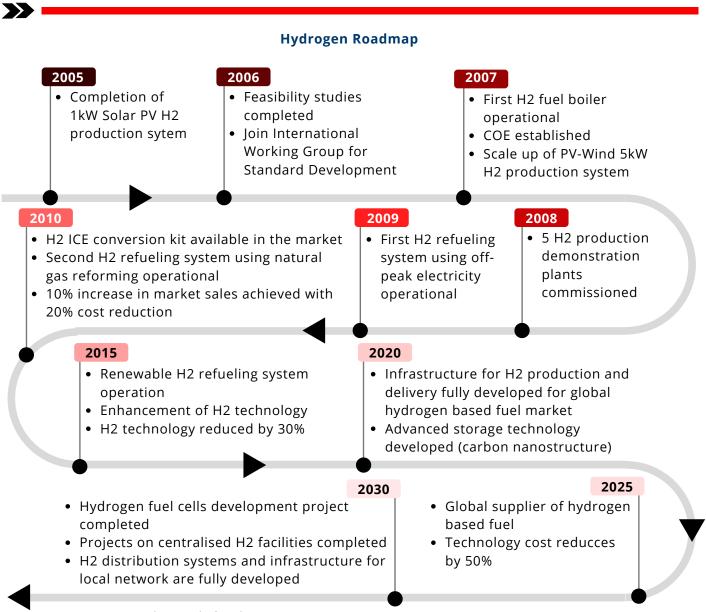
Ultimately, hydrogen is considered to be the cornerstone of the new energy economy, in line with the

current efforts by the Malaysian Government to enhance renewable energy contribution to its energy mix. The Government has identified hydrogen fuel cells as priority research for development since the Eighth Malaysia Plan (2001-2005). From 1997 to 2013, RM40 million of R&D funds have been allocated by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) for research of hydrogen fuel cells. The targets set for hydrogen energy development in Malaysia as defined in the Hydrogen Roadmap.

Country		2025			2030			2040	
	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Japan	88	516	1,338	875	1,761	3,858	1,896	4,131	9,573
Republic of Korea	74	223	493	373	728	1,562	1,001	2,175	5,304
Singapore	3	15	31	27	51	103	96	168	481
China	48	226	698	1,028	3,318	7,009	7,853	17,430	40,989
Rest of the World	98	448	1,170	1,053	2,678	5,729	4,958	10,927	25,758
Total	311	1,429	3,731	3,357	8,536	18,260	15,804	34,831	82,105

Source: ACIL Allen Analysis

Projected Global Demand for Hydrogen ('000 Tonnes)



Source: International Journal of Hydrogen Energy

In addition to the Roadmap, a conceptual framework for the accomplishment of a hydrogen economy has been proposed, illustrating three phases for renewable hydrogen to penetrate the Malaysian market. In the first phase, the market should aim to utilise the hydrogen as feedstock for chemical industries. Once hydrogen production is at a matured-level in the second phase, hydrogen should be used as fuel in internal combustion engines or burners. In the final phase, hydrogen should be used as fuel for automobiles (using fuel (SEB), in collaboration with Linde cell), fuel-cell combined heat and

power (CHP) and as energy storage.

Moving forward, there are vast opportunities for Malaysia to become a clean energy leader in the region with the advancement of new energy storage technologies, such as hydrogenbased fuel technologies. Sarawak is leading this progress in its green energy agenda with the launch of the first integrated hydrogen production plant and refuelling station in South East Asia. Built by Sarawak Energy Bhd. EOX Sdn. Bhd., the facility

includes a plant that produces hydrogen through electrolysis and a refuelling station for the state's first hydrogen-powered vehicles. The stations will be set up by state-owned Petroleum Sarawak Bhd. (Petros) and Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC); and will initially service three hydrogen fuel cell buses operated by SEDC and two cars in SEB's corporate fleet. SEB has also been in discussion with Japan to chart potential collaboration on hydrogen energy, which is deemed to be the future of green and renewable energy (RE).



to reach a total of US\$2.6 trillion from 2010 through the end of 2019, according to a study by **Bloomberg New Energy Finance** for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Frankfurt School's UNEP Centre in September 2019. The advancements in hydrogen energy storage would allow power to be exported to countries investors, and to provide like Japan, where there is a large market for it.

According to the Hydrogen Council, a global initiative of leading energy, transport and industry companies launched during the 2017 World Economic Forum in Davos, the international hydrogen market is estimated to

Investments in new RE is on track be worth up to US\$2.5 trillion (RM10 trillion) by 2050, meeting 18 per cent of global energy demand, providing 30 million jobs and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by six gigatonnes per year. This Belgium-based Council, is a CEO-led organisation that uses its global reach to promote collaboration between governments, industry and guidance on accelerating the deployment of hydrogen solutions around the world.

> In closing, as a basic earth element abundantly available, hydrogen has great potential to reduce reliance on fossil energy sources such as oil and the emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

In the future, hydrogen will be an essential energy carrier made safely from renewable energy sources with virtually no pollution. However, before it can assume a more significant energy role and become a widely used alternative to gasoline, new facilities and systems must be built to accommodate the widespread use of hydrogen. Consequently, the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), as the principal enabler of investments and facilitator of the industrial development efforts in the country, will continue to engage with the relevant stakeholders to promote investments in a clean and secure energy future.



Going Global Series 🔉

Boosting Local Industrial Development: The Swift Group

As part of the Malaysian Investment Development Authority's (MIDA) investment promotion arm, the Domestic Investment and Supply Chain Division (DISC) aims to boost local industrial development. This is driven through continuous engagements with various local stakeholders through activities such as outreach programmes, roundtable meetings and dialogues to further understand companies' role in the supply chain ecosystem and facilitate future strategic development plans to strengthen the nation's economic growth.

Swift Haulage Sdn. Bhd., also known as Swift Group, is one of the local integrated logistic providers that is seeking to grow its business further, with MIDA's assistance. Established in 2011, this local company has diversified its business portfolio greatly. The company's latest investment venture is its e-Commerce Warehouse in Port Klang, Selangor.

About Swift Group

Swift Group has poised itself to be a market leader and mark its presence in the industry. Through the strategic acquisitions of MISC Integrated Logistics Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of MISC Berhad (2016) and Tanjong Express (M) Sdn Bhd, Tanjong Express Logistics (M) Sdn. Bhd. as well as Komunajaya Sdn. Bhd. (2018), the Group successfully expanded the company's core services to include inland distribution, making it one of the largest inland distribution networks in Malaysia.





Loo Hooi Keat Chief Executive Officer Swift Group

In July 2018, Swift Group added a specialised transportation business unit, Swift Mega Carrier Sdn. Bhd. This wholly-owned subsidiary of Swift Integrated Logistic Sdn. Bhd. operates car carrier transportation. In that same year, the Group also secured seven businesses with international and local companies covering services on ISO tank leasing, haulage, total logistic provider, inland distribution water trucking, freight forwarding and customs clearance. This is in addition to the Group's already active cross-border projects, contract logistics and warehouse management services.

Swift Group's Command Centre

The Swift Group's effective use of technology and data to meet customers' logistics needs has positioned themselves beyond their competitors. The Group's Command Centre operates with a dedicated 24-hour shift team that monitors all their truck movements and driver's behaviour through the technologically advance Swift Haulage Portal.

To ensure high compliance towards safety requirements, the trucks are supported by a real-time GPS tracking system, On-Truck Computer (OTC) and On-Board Camera. This allows frequent and efficient monitoring of sensitive and hazardous products during transits. The real-time GPS tracking system can also be accessed by customers to track their containers, offering transparent logistics services. Additionally, two on-board cameras were installed in the cabin; one faces the driver and the other, towards the road, to monitor the driver's behaviour and road conditions. The Command Centre monitors and updates the driver on violations or red flags such as speeding, idling, harsh braking or acceleration, movement on undesignated route and accidents.

More than Just Logistics Services

The Swift Group's truck drivers, who are Malaysians, are part of the logistical supply chain. The data collected from their driving behaviours are instrumental to the company's capacity development.

As part of the Group's Health, Safety, Environment and Quality (HSEQ) initiative, the drivers' families are well informed on the role and responsibilities of a truck driver, highlighting their crucial role in the ground logistic supply chain of the nation. This diminishes the negative perception of being a truck driver in Malaysia. Family members are also educated on the risks associated with the job and learn how to mitigate the situation should the need arise.

Swift Warehouse Embarks into e-Commerce

On 27 February 2020, Swift Group launched its 30,000 square feet warehouse, with investments of RM2.3 million. This Swift e-Commerce Warehouse serves one of the top five most popular e-commerce brands in Malaysia. The warehouse is built with two-tier floors, fully equipped with air-conditioned, equipped with advance technology Pick to Cart – Light System and driven by Warehouse Management System (WMS).

The WMS software application is designed with algorithms to support and optimise warehouse functionality and distribution centre





management. The Group's strategy is to be digitally ready to further advance growth that matches their capabilities. Currently, the warehouse can accommodate up to one million units of throughput per month.

Conclusion

Malaysia has implemented the Movement Control Order (MCO) since 18 March 2020 to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak. The global pandemic has shocked the national and global supply chains. Businesses have been disrupted, and supply chains face significant challenges to remain relevant.

Companies need to take bold steps to mitigate risks in this challenging business climate by continuing to leverage the necessary tools and technologies to remain competitive.

In Swift Group's example, the company invested in the right strategy and adapted technologies and new ways to ensure their business' sustainability. To meet customers' expectations, stricter regulatory requirement and international standards in the logistics industry, the company expanded its capabilities in both asset and local human capital. The Group also reduced operating cost and speed-up decision making to respond to customer's needs. By doing so, the Swift Group ultimately earned their stakeholder's trust.

For more information on MIDA's facilitation and services, please visit MIDA Official Website at <u>www.mida.gov.my</u> or emailing investmalaysia@mida.gov.my

To get to know Swift Group, please visit their website at: <u>http://www.swiftlogistics.com.my/</u>

Special Feature **>>**-

Pekan Automotive Park: The Premier Automotive Hub

The **Pekan Automotive Park (PAP) Phase 2** is a key strategic infrastructure project implemented under the East Coast Economic Regional Development Council (ECERDC).

Under the National Automotive Policy (NAP), PAP has grown into an automotive production hub over the past 30 years. Beginning its operations in 1983, HICOM Automotive Manufacturers (M) Sdn. Bhd. (formerly known as Automotive Manufacturers (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd.) was one of the pioneer players in the Park.

Today, PAP is the Malaysian base for the final assembly of renowned brands such as Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen, Isuzu, and Mitsubishi, with a special focus on producing premium, energyefficient vehicles. These brand name vehicles are made in world-class production lines at PAP.

> "PAP comes with the concept of plug-and-play. One element is to be close to our customer and we are located just 800 metres away. Another element was the branding of PAP that allows us to penetrate the automotive sector with ease."

Glenn Ralston Price Todd, General Manager of ZF Chassis Systems Sdn. Bhd Currently, the development of PAP Phase 2 covers approximately 237 acres, with ample room for further capacity for development to meet the needs and demands of existing as well as new automotive assemblers, manufacturers and vendors.

As PAP is part of the East Coast Economic Region (ECER) Special Economic Zone, investors who set up their businesses here are also eligible to enjoy fiscal and other incentives.







PAP OFFERS VARIOUS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR:

Manufacturers of automotive parts and components



Automotive assemblers* *For passenger vehicles with engine capacity of 1,800cc and above and on-the-road prices not less than RM 150,000



Hybrid and electric vehicles

Pick-up trucks and commercial vehicles Motorcycles with engine capacity of 200cc and above



Connectivity

PAP is well-connected with highways as well as air and sea transportation systems.

A significant advantage of PAP is its proximity to Kuantan. With its new deep-water port, the Kuantan Port offers one of the fastest distribution routes to major ports in China and other Asia Pacific markets.

In addition, the 640 km East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) upon completion will link two major ports in Peninsular Malaysia, namely Port Klang and Kuantan Port. This will undoubtedly benefit investors at PAP.

Human Capital

PAP is home to the DRB-HICOM University of Automotive Malaysia that develops human capital specifically for the automotive sector. This helps address the supply of skilled manpower for the industries at PAP.

Strategy Moving Forward

The Malaysian automotive industry is set to receive fresh impetus with the revamp of the National Automotive Policy in 2020. The focus is to enhance the sector in line with Industry 4.0 and its technologies.

To this end, ECERDC has formed strategic partnerships with key stakeholders to facilitate greater knowledge and technology transfer. This will equip the people of ECER with new skills in fields relevant to the automotive industry such as robotics, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, Internet of Things (IoT) and digital fabrication.

As envisioned in the ECER Master Plan 2.0 (2018-2025), PAP will continue to develop capabilities in the automotive sector ecosystem by promoting the Park to more original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) for making auto components, capitalising on the green vehicle trend, and promoting adjacent activities such as manufacturing of rail parts and coaches.

To further support the growth and development of the automotive industry in ECER, the adoption of Industry 4.0 will revolve around the Asia Centre of Excellence for Smart Technologies (ACES), a collaboration between TUM International GMBH (TUM) of Germany and ECERDC. ACES will play a catalytic role as the hub for talent development as well as digital transformation consultancy and services for the ASEAN region.

For further information about opportunities in ECER or if you are interested to establish/ expand your business here, please contact:

General Line: +603 8885 0000 IM Line: +603 8885 0038 Fax: +603 8885 0020 Email: <u>secretariat@ecerdc.com.my</u> Website: <u>www.ecerdc.com.my</u>

Innovation Ecosystem >> ISO Standards - Spurring Sustainable Business Development (SIRIM QAS)

SIRIM QAS International is the largest certification body in Malaysia that provides certification services to organisations worldwide. The Senior General Manager of the organisation's Management System Certification Department, Mr. Mohd Hamim Imam Mustain said it is vital for organisations to comply and be certified with recognised standards to spur business growth. He added that certifications not only allow organisations to show evidence that they are complying with national or international requirements but also ensure that the management systems in place are being maintained effectively.

Partnering in 37 countries worldwide, SIRIM QAS International certifications are internationally recognised. Mr. Mohd Hamim said that these partnerships enable the organisation to utilise over 22,000 auditors globally to facilitate its certification services.

"We offer a wide range of management system certifications, including quality management system, occupational health and safety management system and environmental management system," he said.

Mr. Mohd Hamim pointed out that the current management system standards developed by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) are risk-based and self-regulated. He said risk in any business is something that has the potential to occur and needs to be managed effectively to prevent undesirable events.

"Prevention is better than cure. The ISO management system standards, which are a preventive approach, can assist organisations to safeguard against reputational damage and unnecessary waste of time and money," he said.



To date, ISO has published a total of 22,467 standards as a guide and framework for governments, industries and consumers to contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

"Taking the Sustainable Development Goal 1 of No Poverty as an example, the anti-bribery management system standard (ISO 37001) supports businesses and governments to combat bribery and build a culture of business integrity. By inculcating a high-integrity culture, it helps reduce the wealth gaps that are a major cause of poverty," he said.

SIRIM QAS International assists government agencies and private businesses to determine the relevant standards to be implemented and certified, in line with their business activities. The right certification will add value to their business," he said.

Mr. Mohd Hamim highlighted that these standards were not only applicable to large organisations but also small-and-medium enterprises. Companies are encouraged to comply with international and national management system standards whenever feasible to be competitive and spur sustainable development.

Any organisation, whether large or small, should leverage relevant certifications to be on par with international players," he said, adding that this would boost the country's economy while promoting sustainable development.

Organisations are encouraged to apply for certifications through SIRIM QAS International website: <u>www.sirim-qas.com.my</u>. Applications can also be submitted via email to cserviceqas@sirim.my.

Highlights of April >>



On 15 April 2020, MIDA Paris in collaboration with MEDEF International, produced a short video to inform French investors on how Malaysia is coping with the Covid-19 pandemic in terms of the economic response plan and facilitating investors. MEDEF is a strategic partner to MIDA in promoting Malaysia as an investment destination and a place to do business to more than 7,000 of its member companies. The organisation is part of the French Business Confederation that represents the French private sector at an international level. The full video is accessible at <u>https://youtu.be/ccSxPHOYWPI</u>



On 16 April 2020, Mr. Steven Cheng, Director of MIDA Shanghai, facilitated the donation of 40,000 masks by Zhejiang Jingxing Paper Co. Ltd. to the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia of Malaysia. Mr. Zhu Zai Long, Chairman of Jingxing Paper and Mr. Hew Tse Hou, Consul General of Malaysia in Shanghai, was also present during the handover ceremony.

Web Meeting between MIDA Frankfurt and GTAI to discuss and compare strategies to attract FDI post-Covid 19

MIDA GTAI

Frankfurt

On 17 April 2020, MIDA Frankfurt had a fruitful online discussion with Mr. Achim Hartig, an expert from the German Trade and Investment (GTAI) on strategies to attract FDI post-COVID 19 situations.

Web Meeting between MIDA Frankfurt and EY Netherlands to discuss and explore joint strategies and activities to bring Dutch FDI to Malaysia and vice versa





GERMANY TRADE & INVEST

> MIDA Frankfurt organised a webinar meeting with the Ernst & Young Global Limited (EY), represented by Mr. Jos Spijker of EY Eindhoven and Mr. Tim Meijers of Amsterdam, the Netherlands on 22 April 2020. The meeting explored collaboration for future seminars and strategies to bring Dutch investments to Malaysia.



MIDA participated as the supporting partner for the webinar session on Impact of COVID-19 on the Malaysian Air Transportation Industry. This webinar was organised by EU-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (EUMCCI) on 30 April 2020. The session spoke about how the Malaysian air transport industry can stay relevant and develop a sustainable business model going forward.





April 2020 | 24

Newslinks **>>**

MALAYSIA RANKING

• Malaysia's moves up in latest global talent competitiveness index 2020

ECONOMY NEWS

- COVID-19: Selangor announces RM272 mil Economic Stimulus Package 2.0
- Covid-19 : Committee to safeguard Malaysia's economy, labour market, says MITI
- Role of GLCs important in formulating economic strategy during MCO Muhyiddin
- Economic growth to improve gradually in 2H20, says BNM
- Malaysia can weather the storm BNM Governor
- Govt announces additional economic sectors that can operate during MCO
- Economists applaud govt's decision to reopen several selected sectors of economy
- Malaysia's trade in Feb 2020 expands 11.6 pct to RM136.28 bil
- Services and manufacturing remain key contributors to economy
- Analysts suggest economic recovery as soon as Q3
- Fitch affirms Malaysia's rating, GDP to grow 5.8pct in 2021
- Covid-19 crisis: Restructuring and rescue options for businesses
- A balance needed between Covid-19 battle and impending recession
- Govt announces RM10b additional assistance for SMEs
- MITI to take up to five days to process MCO business operation applications
- IMF: Malaysia's GDP to grow 9% in 2021, fastest among ASEAN-5 countries
- Malaysia more resilient than many countries: World Bank
- Malaysian economy resilient in 2019, boosted by domestic, private sectors
- MITI lists SOP for essential businesses operating during MCO
- Sabah will focus on main productive sectors to speed up economic development
- Malaysian economy operating at 45 pct capacity during MCO phase 1 & 2 Azmin
- Penang identifies measures to cushion COVID-19 economic impact over longer term
- 50,000 applications from companies to operate during MCO
- Approved investments up 1.7 pct to RM208 bln in 2019 MIDA
- Malaysia, South Korea strive to boost Asia-Pacific economy
- Malaysia to experience short-term benefit from China
- COVID-19: Gig economy creates jobs, healthy competition
- Economic activities to fully rebound by Q3 this year: MIER
- Government formulating economic recovery plan for short, medium and long term
- Strong, productive workforce key to Malaysia's economic resilience
- Govt committed to helping SME weather economic challenges PM Muhyiddin
- Malaysia en route to win economic war against Covid-19 pandemic
- SMEs urged to stay positive, be alert for govt initiatives
- Companies allowed to operate during MCO can go full capacity, says Azmin
- NCS's decision to allow sectors to increase operational capacity deemed timely -- AMCHAM

Newslinks **>>**

INDUSTRY NEWS

- Malaysia least impacted as Asean manufacturers report their worst month on record in March
- JCY gets nod to operate during MCO period
- Kinsteel unit in talks to form JV with Tianjin Qiangbang Industrial to run steel mill in Kedah
- Kossan unit sells land for RM153m
- LKL International clinches RM7m deal to supply PPE to Sarawak health department
- Notion Vtec's units get nod to operate during MCO
- Malaysian firms led by world's top glove maker prioritise medical supplies
- Malaysia Feb manufacturing sales up 7% y-o-y at RM110.6b
- K-One Eyes production of ventilators to fight COVID-19
- Malaysian glovemakers now more valuable than casino, airport operators
- Top Glove, Hartalega surge as global demand soars
- Kossan Rubber to benefit from re-stocking activities amid pandemic
- Rubber glove exports expected to hit RM20b in 2020
- Utilise textile industry's capacity to mass produce PPE amid surge in demand, says economist
- COVID-19 pandemic to push up rubber price, demand for rubber gloves MRB
- Penang attracts largest FDI in manufacturing sector
- Kedah ranks 5th highest in investment value in 2019 Mukhriz
- Business as usual for Guan Chong despite MCO
- MCE seeks collaboration with Taiwanese firm to make automotive lighting parts
- Malaysian MRO firm ExecuJet gets FAA approval for Falcon 900 aircraft
- Covid-19: Hartalega plant utilisation tops 90% as glove demand surge
- FGV diversifies into dairy products with Bright Cow
- UMS' Penang factory gets nod to continue operations
- Dialog continues upward momentum on demand for petroleum storage facility
- MSM expands production portfolio in non-refined sugar segment
- Notion Vtec units to ramp up ops to full capacity following MITI's announcement
- Supernormal Rubberex riding on exceptionally high gloves demand

SERVICES NEWS

- SAP Malaysia: Experience management key to sustainable success in challenging times
- Majuperak to supply solar energy for Perak
- Logistics weathering through the MCO
- British companies eye regional hub in Malaysia
- Huawei to continue focus ICT infrastructure, smart devices
- Hitachi and Fusionex form new alliance to invest in Digital Business Acceleration
- Powering Sarawak with a circular economy
- GSMA confident of Malaysia's 5G progress despite pandemic setback
- Hua-An acquires business intelligence & data analytics companies for RM27 mln
- Solarvest wins rooftop solar project worth RM29.2 mil

Newslinks **>>**

- Duopharma invests US\$250,000 in Naluri to boost digital health growth
- Majuperak expands energy business through JV with Petrolife
- Port Klang Authority signs joint declaration to keep ports open
- Transportation of essential goods allowed to operate at full capacity, says FMFF
- Ports to allow import, export activities by authorised companies

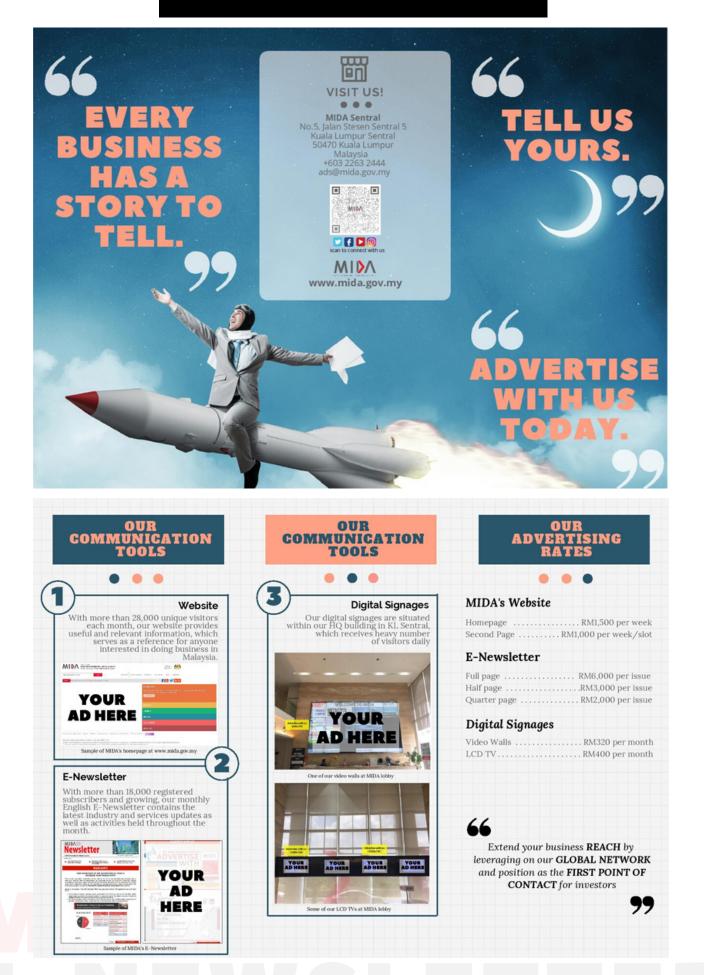
CROSS BORDER NEWS

• Solarvest secures maiden projects in Philippines

GLOBAL NEWS

- World economy working from home gets a glimpse of the virtual future
- Developing countries unlock key industries to safeguard earnings and jobs
- Japan switching manufacturing to ASEAN
- IMF, World Bank urge countries to keep trade open amid COVID-19 pandemic

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Banquet Hall (230 pax)	Inclusive of: • Basic AV System	3,000	3,500
Perdana Panquet Hall	Inclusive of: • VIP Holding Room • PC Room • Basic AV System	7,500	9,000
F&B Pack	ages*	G	Р
А	Inclusive of: • Refreshment • Tea Break • Lunch • Hi-Tea	From RM100/ pax	
В	Inclusive of: • Refreshment • Tea Break • Lunch	From RM80/ pax	
с	Inclusive of: • Refreshment • Tea Break/Hi-Tea	From RM50/	

GST (0%) Service staff, linen, dome, logistic (RM200) "F&B by MIDA's panel caterers

TRAINING ROOM

Rates (RM) Room Types Ρ G Inclusive of: Sigma/ Gamma Basic AV System 1 Flipchart 2 Mahjong Paper 2 Marker Pens 950 850 Room (40 pax) F&B Packages G Ρ Inclusive of: Refreshme
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ABOUT MIDA

MIDA is the government's principal investment promotion and development agency under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to oversee and drive investments into the manufacturing and services sectors in Malaysia. Headquartered in Kuala Lumpur Sentral, MIDA has 12 regional and 20 overseas offices. MIDA continues to be the strategic partner to businesses in seizing the opportunities arising from the technology revolution of this era. For more information, please visit **www.mida.gov.my** and follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, LinkedIn and Youtube channel.

MIDA, your first point of contact for investments in Malaysia.

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