

Cross Border SMEs: Malaysia & Indonesia

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Elsewhere in these two nations, SMEs are much regarded as “unsung heroes” as they play significant economic and social roles by offering new job opportunities, lowering unemployment rate, increasing competition and productivity, and providing substantial benefits to the economy of the two countries, Malaysia and Indonesia alike. The SMEs in both the neighboring nations are considered to be the backbone of the modern-day economy. Thus, it is far from being a surely not a “fish bone” anymore. The importance of this segment is undisputed. For instance, a total of 98.5 percent of the Malaysian business establishments are SMEs. In 2017, these businesses were responsible for 37.1 percent of the country’s GDP, 66 percent the total employment of the country, and 17.3 percent of the total Malaysian export. The annual growth of these SMEs’ contributions towards the GDP, employment and export are 7.2 percent, 3.4 percent and 7.9 percent respectively.

A more or less similar example can be illustrated for the Indonesian counterpart. The importance of MSMEs in the Indonesian national economy has been well noted. There are more than 56.8 million MSMEs establishments and they consist of approximately 99.9 percent of the total number of enterprises. It can be further emphasized that within MSMEs, microenterprises seem to be more dominant compared to small and medium enterprises. It covers about 98.7 percent, while small and medium enterprises represent only about 1.13 percent and 0.09 percent respectively.

