

UOB Thailand and OSMEP Collaboration to ramp up SMEs' digital transformation journey

Bangkok, 9 August 2021 – UOB Thailand has collaborated with the Office of SMEs Promotion (OSMEP) and digital solution providers to assist SMEs in implementing digital solutions in response to the urge of small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) to digitalise their businesses. Through an unboxing tech session held alongside Smart Business Transformation Programme (SBTP), SMEs will be able to discover new market opportunities with free trials of digital solutions for up to 4 months.

The unboxing tech session, which is open to all SMEs, seeks to sign up 1,000 people for free trials of digital solutions including Microsoft's Smart Point of Sale (POS); Kollektive, an integrated influencer marketing optimizer; and Zaviago, a website platform service. SMEs will be able to identify the suitable digital solutions to help optimize their company processes, enhance their brand, and grow their customer base by implementing these digital solutions.

Digital transformation has proven to be crucial for SMEs in difficult times. Thailand's SMEs have expressed an interest in using technology to improve their business processes. According to an OSMEP survey of 2,746 SMEs across 21 business sectors in Thailand, SMEs generally seek to use technology to improve their business processes, with 84.8 per cent planning to do so in the immediate future. However, 61.4 per cent of Thai SMEs still lack online selling channels with 64.1 per cent lacking and online order fulfillment and 20.7 per cent requiring an online transaction system.

Ms Sirinun Jiradilok, Head of Digital Engagement and FinTech Innovation, UOB Thailand, said, "We recognise the importance of digital transformation in keeping SMEs viable while also offering them a plethora of new opportunities. These benefits were attained by SMEs who proactively utilised digital tools despite a challenging economic climate, based on our Smart Business Transformation Programme findings. By collaborating with OSMEP and digital solutions providers such as Microsoft, Zaviago, and Kollektive, we want to help Thai SMEs quickly adopt digital solutions to tackle traditional business models and advance their digital transformation journey".

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Mr. Veerapong Malai, Director-General of the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion (OSMEP), said, “SMEs accounted for 34.2% of Thailand's GDP. They are critical to Thailand's economic future especially in the current atmosphere, where the COVID-19 pandemic is compelling SMEs to adapt and digitalise their businesses. There is a strong demand for targeted, actionable, and simply deployable digital adoption by SMEs. At OSMEP, we develop policies that assist small businesses in leveraging technology to expand their operations, increase productivity, and collaborate closely with like-minded partners. We are excited about this collaboration with UOB Thailand to spur SMEs growth in Thailand.”

Mr. Pakdee Aunyakamol, Deputy Managing Director, Small Medium and Corporate, Microsoft (Thailand) Limited, said, “We have extensive experience working with SMEs. Our work has helped many organisations use technology to solve obstacles in the present crisis. We would like to extend our gratitude to UOB Thailand and OSMEP for the opportunity to participate in this collaboration. SMEs have numerous challenges, which we have addressed with our colleagues at Microsoft, resulting in solutions such as Microsoft Smart POS, a cloud-based point of sale program that works in as a cloud service.

Smart POS is significantly more affordable than traditional point-of-sale systems, starting at just 150 baht per month, while still meeting business needs – from sales reporting in Excel format and complete transaction details to e-commerce website development and marketing tools for micro-influencers. This is just one of the numerous solutions Microsoft and our partners have to offer. We hope that as we move forward together, our technology will support businesses in establishing and maintaining sustainable momentum”

Individuals interested in participating in the online unboxing session can register at <https://bit.ly/2VmJYqj> by August 30, 2021, and in the SBTP at www.thefinlab.com/Thailand to learn more about how to digitally transform their businesses.

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About UOB Thailand

United Overseas Bank (Thai) Public Company Limited is a fully-licensed commercial bank with its network of 152 branches, 410 ATMs nationwide (as of 31 January 2021). UOB Thailand is 99.66 per cent owned by Singapore-headquartered UOB,

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which has a global network of more than 500 offices in 19 countries and territories in Asia Pacific, Europe and North America.

UOB Thailand is rated among the top banks in Thailand: AAA by Fitch Ratings. We offer innovative financial solutions, quality products and excellent services through understanding and identifying the needs of our customers.

Generations of UOB Thailand employees have carried through the entrepreneurial spirit, the focus on long-term value creation and an unwavering commitment to do what is right for our customers and our colleagues. We believe in being a responsible financial services provider and we are committed to making a difference in the lives of our stakeholders and in the communities in which we operate. Just as we are dedicated to helping our customers manage their finances wisely and to grow their businesses, UOB Thailand is steadfast in its support of social development, particularly in the areas of art, children and education.

For media queries, please contact:

Nida Puwanich

Strategic Communications and Brand

Email : nida.puw@uob.co.th

Tel: +66 (0) 2343 4963; Mobile: +66 (0) 81403 0480