



Overview:

- **Advisories** on COVID-19
- Companies' **Best Practices Amidst Pandemic**
- The Impact of COVID-19 Outbreak on **Indonesian** Provincial GDP
- Why **Indonesian** Government Refuses to Impose Lockdown?
- **Malaysia** Government Promoting Quality Investments under Economic Stimulus Package 2020

ASEAN NEWSLETTER



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Advisories on COVID-19

To keep companies updated on the COVID-19 advisory notices issued by the various Government agencies in global key markets, [SBF has taken the initiative to compile the latest notices in one list](#). We hope that this list will be useful to companies monitoring COVID-19 development globally.

In addition, SBF has launched the [COVIDBiz Helpline](#) to support our local companies. This service provides advice on the various business support measures, border restrictions and movement of goods restrictions in key markets globally.

Share your feedback on business-related issues and concerns through this Helpline. Contact us at +65 6701 1138 or email COVIDBiz@sbf.org.sg.





Companies' Best Practices Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic



As companies concentrate on sustaining their businesses during these difficult times due to the COVID-19 outbreak, employees' health and safety have been employers' top concerns as well. And with the pandemic barely showing signs of slowing, many companies are taking no chances by implementing [Business Continuity Planning](#) and [Pandemic Planning](#) to ensure employees' health and prevent an outbreak in their workplaces.

Companies like [Lenovo, HP, and Fave Singapore](#) encourage their employees to work from home and operating on a Team A/Team B staggered model which allows social distancing in offices. Also, measures were put in place to encourage their employees to practice personal hygiene such as the washing of hands and regular temperature checks.

Even though the Aviation sector is among the worst hit by the outbreak, all major firms in [Singapore's Aviation sector have committed to sending their workers for training and upskilling](#) during this downtime to better positioned for economic recovery; and with government assistance such as the enhanced [Jobs Support Scheme \(JSS\)](#), it will help firms save on manpower costs as they invest in their workforce.



INDONESIA

The Impact of COVID-19 Outbreak on Indonesian Provincial GDP (% of GDP)



Source: Simulation with IndoTERM economic model by Prof. Arief Anshory Yusuf (SDGs Center, Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia)

Based on the simulation studies by Universitas Padjadjaran (UP), the Indonesian economic growth is forecasted to be negatively impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. The forecast for Indonesian's economic growth rate is now projected to be 1.24% this year as compared to the previous forecast of 5.2%.

Besides, the most impacted cities are Bali (-0.33%) and DKI Jakarta (-0.05%). The professors from UP also predicted that if the crisis does not last longer than 2 years, Indonesia's economic growth will be able to rebound quickly (hitting more than 7% growth in 2021 and 2022) with a good chance for full recovery in 2022.

Why does the Indonesian Government refuse to Impose Lockdown?

Based on information obtained by D-Insights, the government is reluctant to apply regional quarantine as they were concerned about the impact on its economy and trade. Moreover, a regional quarantine would disrupt the distribution and availability of basic commodities and price stability.

Therefore, in a bid to cushion the impact of COVID-19 outbreak, the Indonesian Government has imposed large-scale social restrictions such as dismissing schools, restricting religious activities, restricting means of transportation and urging companies to implement work from home.



MALAYSIA

Promoting Quality Investments under Economic Stimulus Package 2020



Petronas Twin Towers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Malaysian government introduced the [RM20 billion Economic Stimulus Package](#) in February 2020 to address the economic risks associated with COVID-19 outbreak. The stimulus package is anchored on three strategies – (i) Mitigating the impact of COVID-19; (ii) Spurring rakyat economic growth; (iii) and Promoting quality investments.

Subsequently, in March 2020, they announced additional measures and in aggregate, the [Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Package](#) (also known as PRIHATIN) is valued at RM250 billion. It is expected to provide immediate assistance to all that was affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Also, the Government will be accelerating major development projects in 2020 as well as providing support incentives for affected companies.

These key development projects include

- a. [Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change \(MESTECC\) 1,400MW solar power project](#);
- b. [Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission \(MCMC\) RM3 billion National Fiberisation and Connectivity Plan \(NFCP\)](#); and
- c. Government-linked companies' investments worth about RM13 billion on LED streetlights, transmission lines and rooftop solar installations.



Singapore Business Federation

Latest Events / Happenings

Business Clinics (Webinars)

Participate in our Business Clinic webinars for [Vietnam](#), [Myanmar](#), [Philippines](#), [Indonesia](#) and [Lao PDR](#) to understand the emerging business trends, models, technologies, latest update on COVID-19 situation and how companies can mitigate the effects as well as leverage on support measures etc. Also, explore potential business partnerships and opportunities with the respective local business communities.

For more information and to register for these webinars, please click [here](#).



Internationalisation Poll

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, SBF would like to find out if your overseas business operations or expansion plans may have been impacted and more importantly, how we can better help you. We appreciate your valuable feedback through this short poll, which will take less than five minutes.

Email research@sbf.org.sg for further assistance.



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Contributions by:

- ASEAN, Global Business Division
- Research & Publishing, Strategy & Development Division

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