

NEWS RELEASE

UOB Indonesia to open five more business consultancy centres to provide advisory services to local enterprises

Jakarta, 19 August 2016 – UOB Indonesia (UOBI) today announced that it will set up five Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) business centres within existing branches in key Indonesian cities providing business advisory and networking opportunities to small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The five new SME centre locations will open in Jakarta at the end of this year, followed by Semarang and Surabaya in 2017. UOBI is setting up the business centres in collaboration with Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB). The SME business centres, “Sentra UKM”, will provide value added services to SMEs in the areas of business planning, industry knowledge transfer through conversations with industry leaders, and community networking. UOBI opened the first centre in its Bandung branch in March this year.

SMEs form the backbone of Indonesia’s economy, accounting for 53 million local enterprises which contribute more than 50 percent of the country’s GDP¹.

According to Mr. Lawrence Loh, Managing Director, Head of Business Banking UOBI, many local SMEs typically are small family set-up with limited access to latest management know-how, industry networks and financial knowledge. Many have big aspirations, and are looking at multi-city locations within Indonesia and overseas markets to fuel their growth. UOB is committed to helping its customers through the SME centres and support their business expansion ambitions.

“We expect our SME customers to grow their business in the next few years and as a result, their banking and business needs will change. From managing foreign exchange risks to navigating the evolving landscape in different markets, SMEs need financial advisors with specialist skills who understand what it takes to do business across borders.

¹ Data based on Indonesia Central Bureau Statistics (BPS) “Micro, Small and Medium Business in Indonesia 2007 – 2014”

That is why we opened the first Sentra UKM earlier this year, which was well received by the local business community. To cater to the increasing business expansion needs of our customers, we plan to open five more centres in Jakarta, Semarang and Surabaya,” said Mr Loh.

Through Sentra UKM, UOBI also plans to engage FinTech startups actively. This is part of UOBI’s plan to mentor FinTechs which have developed a viable product in payments, wealth management, customer experience management, big data analytics, mobility solutions and SME banking.

These FinTechs will be mentored by financial institution experts, including those from UOBI and successful venture capitalists. They will also be given the opportunity to connect with potential investors and to market their business ideas.

UOBI welcomes first batch of graduates from the UOBI-ITB SME Banker’s Executive Certificate Programme

Today, 23 UOBI SME bankers graduated from the UOBI-ITB SME Banker’s Executive Certificate Programme, developed by UOBI and ITB.

Launched in March this year, the tertiary programme designed especially for SME bankers is the first in Indonesia’s finance industry.

The programme combines classroom-based study with practical skills training in the areas of credit and risk management, trade financing and regulatory frameworks. To meet the dynamic and challenging business needs of the Bank’s customers, UOBI expects to place more than 200 SME bankers on this course over the next 12 months.

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About UOB Indonesia

PT Bank UOB Indonesia (UOBI) is a subsidiary of United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB), a leading bank in Asia with global network of more than 500 offices in 19 countries and territories in Asia Pacific, Western Europe and North America.

UOBI was established in 1956. The bank's service network comprises nearly 200 branches and 185 ATMs across 30 cities in Indonesia. UOB Indonesia is committed to providing quality products and excellent customer service. UOB Indonesia offers various banking products and services categorised into Retail Banking business and Wholesale Banking.

The bank has a strong retail customer base through its wide range of saving products, mortgage services and credit card under Personal Financial Services while also catering the SME business under Business Banking. On the Wholesale Banking, it serves the needs of customers in Commercial Banking, Corporate Banking, Global Markets and Investment Management.

UOBI has been increasingly focused on helping companies with their expansion plans. It has facilitated many enterprises from industries such as construction, mining, real estate and the services sector expanding into Indonesia. UOB Indonesia is rated AAA (idn) by Fitch Ratings.

UOBI plays an active role in the community, focusing in Arts, Education and Children. Since year 2011 UOBI has held an annual art competition called UOB Painting of the Year which reflects from the Regional South East Asia competition held in Singapore since 1982. UOB Indonesia also encourages its employees to be involved in its regular volunteer activities. This includes the annual UOB Heartbeat Run, Blood Donation and Book Donation activities.

For further detail of UOB Indonesia, please visit www.uob.co.id

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