

Tech A Break

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Work Smart, Play Hard
1. PNSB Heritage Race
2. Mooncake Festival

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LOCAL BUSINESSES NEED GAME-CHANGING MINDSET TO EMBRACE DIGITAL ECONOMY

By: Sheryllyn Rose

Earlier this year, Sarawak Chief Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg expressed his desire to transform Sarawak through Digital Economy. He even stated that RM 1 billion from Sarawak's own fund will be spend to develop ICT infrastructure including the construction of 5,000 telecommunications towers throughout the state. A good and stable network connection is needed to embrace Digital Economy.

There is a great potential in Digital Economy, and local entrepreneurs especially, need to make use of that opportunity to help their businesses to grow and penetrate not only in local market but also across the Asean countries. Although Digital Economy is a new platform to promote local businesses, but it has proven that it can help local entrepreneurs to survive in a very competitive industry. In this era of competition, entrepreneurs need to aggressive and follow the current flow of doing business.

One of the local entrepreneurs, Abang Hashim, 51 makes full used of Facebook and WhatsApp to market his fertilizer business. "Facebook and WhatsApp are, by far, the best channels to market my products because they are convenient and cheap to access by my customers," he said. While a timber broker, Wong Kai Ping, 51, promotes his sawn timber and wood chips through a well-known China online market place owned by Alibaba.com.

It is never too late to go digital especially in businesses, because a more advanced country like Australia also just started to digitize their economy. So to all local entrepreneurs, you can start little by marketing your products online via the social medias. From there you can build your network, find your potential customers and get engaged with them. Let your business grow from there, and at some point they are the one who will do the selling for you! As we work in this IT industry, what can we do to help those entrepreneurs? Can we build or enhance current network? So, Pasti Nyala-ians are you up for the challenge?

MALAYSIA LAUNCHES WORLD'S FIRST DIGITAL FREE TRADE ZONE (DFTZ)

By: Christina Yli

On 22 March 2017, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, together with Jack Ma, founder and Executive Chairman of Alibaba Group, launched the world's first Digital Free Trade Zone (DFTZ). The Government of Malaysia is the key stakeholder of DFTZ and is supported by other agencies and the local key industry players as well as Alibaba Group. DFTZ is an initiative to capitalize on the confluence and exponential growth of the internet economy and cross-border eCommerce activities. Besides that it's also to facilitate seamless cross-border trade and enable local businesses to export their goods with a priority for eCommerce.

DFTZ will have three components:

- « eFulfilment Hub: To help SMEs / businesses in exporting their goods easily, with the help of leading fulfilment service providers.
- « Satellite Services Hub: To connect SMEs / businesses with leading players who offer services like financing, last mile fulfilment, insurance and other services which are important in cross-border trade.
- « eServices Platform: To efficiently manage cargo clearance and other processes needed for cross-border trade.

Objectives

- « Help SMEs to export their products globally with ease.
- « Enable global marketplaces to source from Malaysian manufacturers/ sellers.
- « Make Malaysia the regional fulfilment hub for global brands to reach ASEAN buyers.
- « Nurture an ecosystem to drive innovation in eCommerce and internet economy.

Location

The first eFulfilment hub of DFTZ will be located at KLIA Aeropolis. The first Satellite Services hub of DFTZ, Kuala Lumpur Internet City ("KLIC"), will be in Bandar Malaysia.

Key Benefits of DFTZ to businesses

- « Provide market access to SMEs for them to reach global customers with the help of leading marketplaces.
- « Simplify and accelerate cargo clearance process with the help of eServices platform.
- « Provide end-to-end support to businesses for cross-border trade, networking and knowledge sharing to drive innovation within the Internet ecosystem.
- « Leading eFulfilment services (warehousing, pick, pack, labelling, and others).
- « Access to eCommerce ecosystem players (financing, last mile fulfilment, insurance, digital marketing, and others).
- « Provide the right ecosystem and facilities for brands to use Malaysia as a transshipment hub to reach ASEAN customers.

Targets

- « Double the growth rate of SME's goods exports to reach US\$38 Billion by 2025.
- « Create 60,000 jobs (direct+ indirect) by 2025.
- « Facilitate US\$ 65 Billion of goods movement via the DFTZ (exports, imports, transshipments) by 2025.

The 10 Best Photo Storage and Sharing Sites

“Let’s share the images you have with people around you!”

By: Dimple Durin

There are few things that we’re looking for before making a decision on which photo storage sites we would like to use. Enough storage SPACE to keep all your photos in one place at low cost. Photo QUALITY should be preserved while uploading to the sites. EASY to edit and upload. ACCESSIBLE should be achieved without hassle. Allowing you to SHARE throughout your social network list. Last but not least, photo should be able to be PRINTED by you or someone else whom appreciates your artworks.



Here are the top 10 best photo storage and sharing sites for you to choose:

1. Flickr

- FREE only for 300MB of monthly photo storage
- Share albums with the Flickr community or invited friends on Flickr
- Paid account can use their photo to create photo gifts:- books, calendars, poster and collages
- BEST FOR experienced Web users who wish to share their images with the public
- Default setting only allow the owner of the photos to print the images

2. Facebook

- FREE
- Upload up to 200 photos in each album that you created
- BEST FOR a devoted Facebook user who wish to share their photos with their FB friends
- Lack of PRIVACY CONTROL

3. PicasaWeb

- FREE only for 1 GB of photo storage
- This web scans your photo which stored in the computer and lets you to choose the photo you would like to put online
- Fun editing features such as red-eye remover with a single click on the photo, adding music to photo slides and colour toned editing.
- Lack of PRIVACY CONTROL
- BEST FOR Google+ users

4. Shutterfly

- FREE for unlimited photos
- Register as a KodakGallerry.com customers, upload and store your photos in their original size and allow friends to comment and print the photos
- The free desktop application lets you to do quickly upload and also allowing you to order an archive DVD that includes all your photos
- You can't see other people photos unless you were invited to join the shared albums
- BEST FOR those who works with digital photos

5. Instagram

- FREE
- Has a large number of filters which are easy to use
- BEST FOR devoted social apps who like to share their pictures of themselves, foods, pets, natures to their Insta followers

6. Pinterest

- Fun social networking website where you can PIN the photos that you like on your dashboard

7. OneDrive

- Microsoft's unlimited photos sharing site.
- SHARE only with those whom you wish to share by only using their email address

8. 500 Pixels


- FREE for 20 photos weekly
- Clean and Elegant way to display your best images
- BEST FOR serious photographer

9. Photobucket

- FREE for 2 GB storage
- List of editing tools which are easy to use
- Provides support for selling prints which visitors can buy YOUR photos

10. Google Photo

- FREE for Unlimited storage
- Allow to edit, create album and shares

A portrait of Sim Yu Hock, a man with glasses and a plaid shirt, pointing his right index finger towards the text. The background is a blurred image of a port facility.

Two Decades With Sim Yu Hock

1. Tell me about yourself

As you all know, my name is Sim Yu Hock, 44 years old, born in Kuching but grew up in Sibul. Went to SMB Tung Hua and after SPM, I went to INTI College Subang Jaya. After prepping myself at INTI College for a year, I pursued my Bachelor Degree in Computer Science minoring in Mathematics at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond City, USA. I came back to Malaysia in the year 1998.

2. What was your journey to get to where you are now?

University life was hard, financially. I worked multiple jobs to help me pay the tuition fees. In campus, I was a helper at the University's cafeteria and worked in the computer lab – and at the same time I also worked as a Warehouse Keeper, off campus. I was promoted to Wholesales Supervisor after I was done with my studies whilst waiting for my student visa to expire.

When I came back to Sarawak in the year 1998, it was challenging to find a job in Kuching due to the financial crisis that plagued Malaysia that year. I applied to five (5) companies but only one company called back which was Malitnet Consultancy Sdn Bhd. Due to the financial crisis, the company took extra measures to select their workers and because of this I had to go through six (6) stages of interview sessions. Two weeks after the excruciating interview process, I received a call from Malitnet, delivering the wonderful news on the 1st of April which at first I thought was an April Fool joke but I got in!

I reported for duty on the 6th of April 1998; and right after the HR office that same morning I got assigned to Koperkasa as a system analyst to maintain their Membership Monitoring System. It was really hard for me as I had to figure out things on my own due to the fact that the previous system analyst had left and no one else can assist me. After six (6) months with Koperkasa, I was called back to Malitnet to convert the port system (Malitnet Port Solution) from Infomix 4GL to Visual Basic, which made my two colleagues and me the pioneers in the project. As the project progressed, we required a bigger team, thus the team went to INTI College to train young graduates in Visual Basic and handpicked six (6) students to join the company.

On December 1999, I was assigned as system analyst and system developer as well as system implementer to Penang port project, running the PELPIN (Cargo and Marine Operation System), I spent 3 years in Penang and on the year 2000, Mr Peter Yap decided to established a new company called PORTRADE, again I was one of the pioneers and we moved to Cyberjaya to set up the company. With that, we started engaging with project on ferry ticketing system and reservation system. We also implement VSS (Vessel System Services) in Sabah ports.

Then after that I was posted to the Philippines for the Philippines port project (IPMS – Integrated Port Management System). IPMS was not only implemented in the Philippines but also in Sarawak, Bintulu Port as well as in China, Weifang Port.

Finally, in the year 2013, I joined Pasti Nyala Sdn Bhd and stayed until now.

3. What inspired you to join Pasti Nyala Sdn Bhd?

This was more of a personal choice because I wanted to settle down and be based in Kuching due to the fact that my kids were growing up and with that, I no longer want to travel as much as I did before.

4. What are you really into outside of work? What is your passion?

I really enjoy outdoor activities especially jogging and walking. When I am indoor I like to read and spend more quality time with my family.

5. What is the thing that keeps you motivated in doing what you are doing now?

Personally, I think that port businesses are very unique compared to other business sectors. While working on a project, I can learn the port operation and also deal with shipping agents. I really enjoy external projects rather than sitting in the office.

6. As a system analyst, you have a number of programmers working with you, how do you help them to develop their skill and grow to the next level in their career as a programmer?

I always tell my programmers to work as a team and when they have issues, I tried my best to advise them and give extra motivations. I like treating them as a family member and I encouraged them to share their thoughts with me even when it is not work related. Besides that, I also encourage them to take more responsibility and manage their own projects to help them grow in their career.

7. 20 years as a system analyst and I am positive there are a quite a number of accomplishments that you have achieved. Among all the accomplishment that you had, can you share with us 3 of your biggest accomplishments and why?

The first one would be the Penang Port project as I managed to bring the system online with the help of the three junior staffs even when we were working with a quite limited resources.

The second one would be our Accounting System, Payroll System and Farm Operation System that we managed to develop for the past 2 years.

The third accomplishment would be the fact that everyone in Pasti Nyala works together as a family to achieve certain things.

8. What has been the biggest disappointment that you had in your career so far and how do you cope with that disappointment.

19 years back when I just joined the company for a few weeks, a client commented and talked down on the Koperkasa system. I was quite disappointed but managed to solve the problem by looking into the source of the problem and moved it up from there. After that incident, I always remind myself the importance of customer service in order to keep the customers happy.

9. Can you give the audience one word that describes you the best and why do you think that particular word describes you the best?

Dedication, as I am dedicated to my work and also to my family and everyone around me.

10. Based on your 20 years of experience as system analyst with Pasti Nyala Sdn Bhd, what advice you can share with younger ICT graduates who are looking for a career path same as you?

Honestly, no need to worry about the salary as many didn't manage to get any job due to demand for high salary. First thing first, get in the job, work hard and show your initiatives to the company. You need to take your own initiatives to learn new things and be brave to take on new challenges, don't worry about making mistakes. You also need to be able to work as a team as that is the most important culture in any company. Then last but not least, do accept the negative comments from others, and learn to improve from there. (None of us are perfect).

Elongate Your Smartphone Battery

"The reality today is, everybody needs their Smartphone to complete their daily routine!"

Checking emails, listening to music, enjoying movies, taking pictures and most importantly is doing a daily routine of social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp, Instagram, etc..) is what we can do by using our Smartphone. But to do these activities all day long we do need a long lived battery life. Once the Smartphone runs out of battery life, you can't enjoy these addictive activities all day long. In short, we need a device name Smartphone and these devices do need a battery life to do their job. In order to prevent the disappointment of a dead phone on your hand, and without bringing any extra power-bank with you, here are some tips that can help you to extend your Smartphone's battery life.



4. Turn off the vibration

- Vibrate functions use more battery usage

5. Turn off push Email/auto synchronized

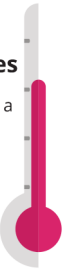
- Having your phone check for new emails once or twice an hour uses less battery than having it constantly monitor for updates.



This are few simple tips that you can apply in order for you to enjoy your daily routine with your Smartphone.

3. Protect your phone from extreme temperatures

- Intense heat or cold will cause a chemical reaction which resulting in a rapid loss of power.



2. Turn off unused applications

- Switch off any unused application such as Bluetooth and GPS while you're not using it.



Auto

1. Dim the screen

- Disable the auto-brightness and manually adjust the brightness level to the lowest setting based on your comfort.
- Set your screen to turn off after a short period of inactivity.



PNSB Heritage Race YOU AGAINST TIME!

By: Shareen Arzaman

"PNSB Heritage Race - YOU against TIME" is the team building theme for our Pasti Nyala Sdn. Bhd. (PNSB) this October! There were five teams named after the historical figures of Sarawak; Kanang Langkau team, Rentap team, Rosli Dhoji team, Sharif Masahor team, and Temenggung Jugah team.

The race started early in the morning at our very own PNSB office where the magic happens! As this is a race against time, the teams that first arrived get an advantage to start the race early. Then, each team has to take their breakfast with locale foods. After breakfast, everyone hurried to next checkpoints which are Sarawak Museum, Tugu Pahlawan, and Brooke Dockyard around the Kuching City taking pictures and solving clues given.

About halfway through the race, the teams have to solve a block of code and where the answer points to Astana! They were given a video about Didi and friends' rowing their boat and that is the instructed transportation to Astana. This is the most interesting part in the race as it is unanticipated and refreshing experience! After the teams rode back, they have to take a picture with the 5th animal in the Chinese zodiac at the Tua Pek Kong. Can you guess what animal is this?



Then, they head to the Chinese Museum to find a 'red head' and take a picture with it. Only Temenggung Jugah team got it right! It is a boat that Chinese immigrants had been used to travel from Taipei to Bangkok then to Singapore and lastly arrived at Sarawak. Old Court House is the next checkpoint where the teams have to find their hidden clue around the area.



At this point, everyone is in havoc where they are trying their best to win the "YOU against TIME" race. When they finally found the clue, it leads to INDIA STREET. Each team have to find their assigned shop and take a picture with it. In addition to make this one more gruelling, the teams have to interview a stranger for 30 seconds and include the PNSB magic words:

"WE WORK SMART AND PLAY HARD"

Lastly but not the least, the last checkpoint is the legendary 89 year old cotton tree. At the end of the race, everyone huddled up and took a picture under the tree as a keepsake. Thank you to the organizer's team for creating an entertaining day for the last team building for the year of 2017! (Organizer's team: Hiedayah Hamzah, Jacqueline Kuan, Kho Wen Ho, Watson Leymand, and Baetriche Lawrence.)



Mooncake Festival Party

By Shareen Arzaman

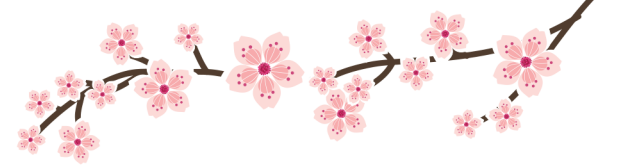
On October 2nd 2017, Pasti Nyala Sdn. Bhd. (PNSB) celebrates the Mooncake festival or Tang Lung festival with all of the staff, ex staff and interns. There are steamboats and barbecued food prepared for the party. The front area was decorated with pretty Tang Lung with candles in it even though it is a windy night.



On the projector there are some movies are on for leisure watching while waiting the food to cook. People ran outside when scary movies are on though. Into the night, Mr Richard W. S. has been surprised with a birthday cake.



There are also some firework actions and karaoke session afterwards. All in all, PNSB's Mooncake festival party is where everyone eats good food and have fun together.





Keep It Organised

DATAPURI HUMAN RESOURCE INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Human Resource Information System (HRIS) is an online solution for the data entry, data tracking, and data information needs of the Human Resources, payroll processing, employee self service and leave management.

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