

THE BUSINESS TIMES

theSME magazine

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

“WE CONCENTRATE
ON IMPROVING OURSELVES
AND DOING BETTER.
IF WE EXPOSE OURSELVES
TO NEW THINGS,
WE WILL BE BETTER OFF.”

– JOSEPH LAU, MANAGING DIRECTOR,
LAUD ARCHITECTS



HERE'S TO A GOOD YEAR

THE New Year has arrived, and I hope all of you had the opportunity to rejuvenate and spend quality time with loved ones. After all, what is the point of all our hard work if our relationships or health suffer?

Forcing ourselves to slow down and take stock of all that has happened in the past year – good and bad – is vital if we want to head into 2017 with a vision and purpose. It may not be your tradition to make New Year resolutions, but that is quite a good way to remind yourself of some of the changes that you hope to enforce throughout the year.

Speaking of changes, *The SME Magazine* is also entering 2017 with some minor tweaks to better serve the needs of our readers. We have decided on a more structured approach by covering a specific sector for each issue, and the majority of our stories will follow a common thread.

In our first issue this year, we explore developments in the property sector and how these will affect our small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

In Top Story, we look at the consolidation of HDB and JTC's industrial space and ask analysts what this means for our SMEs. We also find out if policies and rents are expected to remain the same, and what alternatives

are available for SMEs.

Our *Towkay* this month is Joseph Lau, managing director of LAUD Architects, who has a passion for designing beautiful buildings to improve the lives of the occupants. He shares about the company's journey and how it intends to grow in a slowing economy.

In line with our property theme, our Space section explores how technology has improved operations within companies, transformed the use of business space, and helped turn SMEs into global enterprises.

In Smart Capital, we find out how changes to accounting for leases in accounting standard FRS 116 could have an impact on SMEs which own or lease their premises. The proposed changes may have a significant impact on your company's financial statements, even though your business has not changed.

Aside from property-related stories, we have a host of other features that are likely to interest you. In our Global Edge section, we look at Singapore fashion brands Pazzion and Benjamin Barker and find out what are some of their expansion plans abroad.

Finally, in our Budding Entrepreneurs section, we have a chat with Karine Cheong, founder of Klarity, a skincare brand that is making its mark in



Photography: Ching, GreenPlasticSoldiers Stylist: JC Hair & Makeup: Sharon Pow from Living Beauty Wardrobe: H&M

Singapore and beyond. She tells us how she is fighting with the big boys for a slice of the beauty market.

For those who are feeling the back-to-work blues, there is still the upcoming Chinese New Year festival later in the month to put some cheer into the New Year. Happy 2017 everyone!

Vivien Shiao
EDITOR



ON THE COVER

Photography: Ching, GreenPlasticSoldiers
Stylist: JC
Grooming: Sharon Pow from Living Beauty
Wardrobe: Sweater and pants by Hugo Boss

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