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## Bank's new ESG playbook supports SME manufacturers

THERE'S now a comprehensive guide for small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) manufacturers to integrate environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices into their daily business operations.

*The ESG Playbook: Practical Steps for Manufacturing SMEs* by Alliance Bank Malaysia Bhd provides manufacturers with practical strategies to balance sustainability with efficiency and growth, enabling them to strengthen resilience and unlock new opportunities, the bank said in a media statement.

Developed in collaboration with Monash University Malaysia, Zurich Malaysia and strategic partners including the Malaysian Plastics Manufacturers Association (MPMA), Penang Green Council (PGC) and UN Global Compact Network Malaysia Brunei (UNGCMYB), it contains case studies of home-grown Malaysian SMEs showcasing successful ESG adoption across the manufacturing value chain.

Alliance Bank group chief executive officer Kellee Kam said: "As ESG considerations become increasingly important for businesses, we see



From left: Cheah, Wong, Kam, Prof Adeeba, Faroze and Tan launching Alliance Bank's ESG playbook for manufacturing SMEs.

growing recognition of its role in strengthening business resilience, managing risks and supporting long-term performance.

"For manufacturers, strong ESG adoption can drive cost efficiencies, open up new revenue or innovation opportunities, improve investor

confidence and build resilience across supply chains and regulatory environments.

"By drawing on real-world examples and clear frameworks, the playbook supports SMEs in moving from awareness to implementation, enabling them to embed sustainability into their

operations in ways that deliver measurable business outcomes and long-term success."

The launch in Kuala Lumpur was also attended by MPMA president CC Cheah, Zurich Malaysia chief risk officer Teresa Wong, Monash University Malaysia president and pro vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, UNGCMYB executive director Faroze Nadar and PGC chief executive officer Josephine Tan.

A key feature of the playbook is its in-depth case studies which showcase how manufacturers are successfully applying ESG practices, the bank said.

Featured companies include Hexa Food Sdn Bhd, IGL Coatings, Thumbprints Utd Sdn Bhd and Artmatrix Technology Sdn Bhd, illustrating initiatives ranging from responsible sourcing and resource optimisation, to governance improvements and social impact programmes.

In addition, six other SMEs, which are The Green Factory, Foodabox, Fire Fighter Industry Sdn Bhd, Geomax Rubber Innovative Products Sdn Bhd, Bioloop Sdn Bhd and Emerging EPC Sdn Bhd are highlighted for their innovative ESG efforts.

Together, these examples provide lessons and inspiration for SMEs seeking to strengthen sustainability while maintaining competitiveness, the bank said.

The playbook introduces eight ESG leadership archetypes that reflect how Malaysian manufacturers are embedding sustainability across their operations.

Drawn from research insights and real practices of local SMEs, these archetypes offer a practical way for businesses to understand their ESG strengths, identify their maturity level and chart strategic pathways for transformation.

*The ESG Playbook: Practical Steps for Manufacturing SMEs* is part of a broader series of ESG playbooks that will be developed for other key industry sectors, the bank said.

"These playbooks form part of the efforts of the Innovation Impact Lab, launched in November 2025, which aims to drive greater adoption of circularity practices and to scale innovation in this area."

This playbook can be downloaded from [www.alliancebank.com.my/about-us/Sustainability/Sustainability-Reports/esg-manufacturing-playbook-2026](http://www.alliancebank.com.my/about-us/Sustainability/Sustainability-Reports/esg-manufacturing-playbook-2026)