Record Nr. UNINA9910478930303321

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Titolo E-commerce for Malaysian SMEs in Selected Services : Barriers and

Benefits / / Siew Yean Tham, Jia Yi Andrew Kam

Pubbl/distr/stampa Singapore:,: ISEAS Publishing,, [2019]

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ISBN 981-4881-39-2

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (48 p.)

Soggetti BUSINESS & ECONOMICS / Economics / General

Electronic books.

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Nota di contenuto Front matter -- FOREWORD -- E-commerce for Malaysian SMEs in

Selected Services: Barriers and Benefits -- CONCLUSION -- APPENDIX:

SURVEY RESULTS

Sommario/riassunto Findings from a recent survey done to identify the barriers and benefits of e-commerce for Malaysian SMEs in the retail and food and beverage

services indicate that both e-commerce adopters and non-adopters are similar in that they perceive the CEO or decision-maker to be the most

important factor in the adoption of e-commerce. The relative

importance of the other three main factors (namely, organizational, technological and environmental) differ for adopters and non-adopters. Likewise, there are also differences in response based on firm size. Based on the survey findings, Malaysia needs to shift from one-size-fits-all strategies to a more nuanced policy response that addresses the differences in perceived barriers of adopters and non-adopters and which is also cognizant of firm size. Grant recipients are more

concerned about technological and environmental factors, indicating that grants need henceforth to be accompanied by appropriate policies that address these two barriers. The perceived benefits focus more on the domestic market than on exports. Getting firms to invest in ecommerce does not automatically lead to export. Exporting via e-

commerce requires complementary policies that focus on specific

issues, such as digital marketing at the targeted export destination.